Volume 4, No. 1 • December 6, 1996

Nation

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Little Miss Nemaska!

Also Inside:

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A Safe Place: Women's Shelters

3rd Anniversary Special Issue!

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All Welcome!

On the occasion of this *3rd anniversary issue,*

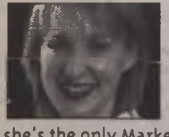
The Nation would like to introduce "The Team"

Ernest "Mad Scientist" **Webb** always comes up with innovative schemes. Unfortunately, he forgets to apply them or just forgets them altogether.

Aspiring action movie star, **Alex Roslin** comes to work with his hair wet in the winter. He also uses Colgate™ (see photo).

Linda Ludwick eats too much chocolate and harasses staff for candy. She also sets booby-traps in the office.

Katerina "Vulture" **Cizek** always eats others peoples' food. A not-so-recent Czech immigrant, her English is improving.



Rhonda Sherwood is the nicest Marketing Director *The Nation* has ever had. In fact, she's the only Marketing Director we've ever had.

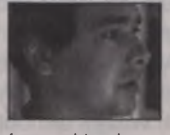
Refusing to part with her nurse persona, **Nlan Matoush** always offers unsolicited and un-needed medical advice.

Johanne Grenon, Sales Representative, is much too sweet to work for *The Nation*.

Cree history buff, **Pierre Lemay**, is a walking Cree encyclopaedia. And boy, is he ever loud!

William Nicholls would like to apologize to ...

Catherine Bainbridge is gossip central. Nothing gets by her. Her phone line is open 24 hours & her operators are standing by.

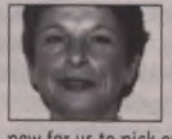


Neil Diamond apologizes once again to Capissisit Lodge. He's not responsible for anything he may write or photograph.

Brian Webb's dream is to write the *Great Cree Novel* in syllabics. Using, of course, the font he developed.

Deantha Edmunds is a sophisticated Opera singer, and has graced many distinguished stages. She also tells filthy Newfy jokes.

Ex-cop, **Marilyn Bearskin Herodier** is as tough as nails and as sweet as pie.



Marriette Pedneault, the Val d'Or Sales Representative, is too new for us to pick on.

BIRTHDAYS

We wanna wish ourselves a Happy Third Birthday on December 1, 1996. We would also like to thank all those who helped and supported us through the thin and the thick. Love always, your friend, *The Nation*. XOXO.

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COVER PHOTO
4-yr-old Catherine Orr, Little Miss Nemaska '96
Photo by Neil Diamond
Cover design: Katerina Cizek

RE4NOTES

IT WAS THROUGH earnest prayer that we made it to Nemaska two weeks ago. There we were at the airport at seven in the morning still not sure if we were going to get on the plane at all. As usual we were on standby. My traveling companion uttered the word "ulcers" more than once. Was the Land with us? The Great Spirit smiled upon us and we didn't have to resort to Plan B which required that we post ourselves at Dorval airport's main entrances to intercept already confirmed passengers and lie that their flights had been canceled or postponed. This carries a mere misdemeanor charge under Cree law so we weren't too worried.

At 7:15 they said we would be able to make it only as far as Val d'Or. Sin City. We were whisked through security and boarded the plane and took off. We landed in Val d'Or without incident and ordered breakfast. All this time wondering if we would get a seat. Minutes later we boarded the plane for Nemaska and took our seats. A man from Chisasibi hovered at the front of the plane and said smiling, "Someone has to get off." "Whuh?" I thought and spun around in my seat. There was one empty seat at the back of the plane.

The Land was with us. We touched down. We secured lodging, a meal and proceeded to do Nemaska. We took in the scenery and tried to blend in with the locals.

A scheduled meeting with some powerful people was the primary reason for our trip so we headed to the always roomy GCCQ headquarters where the James Bay Cree Communi... whew... cations Society chose, after seven years, a new president. In a dramatic display of democracy in Nemaska **Thomas Jolly** captured six votes, winning by just a hair. **Diane Reid**, the defeated candidate, is the lady in the film *Power*, viciously stealing scenes. Why it took soooooo long to choose a new president was not discussed. Maybe it's because they're the JBCCS and you're not.

Speaking of elections. A friend of a friend of a friend of one of my brother's friends has a theory that may explain my humiliating loss in the race for Grand Chief. This "friend" had the privilege of being appointed Returning Officer several times in his community and noticed something unusual when the elderly who couldn't read came to vote. They would on many occasions ask the translator present, "Who's at the top of the list?" and make their X on that candidate's box. Or the translator would begin to read out the names but the voter would cut him off after the first name

was read out and vote for that one. Keep that in mind, future candidates. Change your last name so that it begins with an A or even better, two A's. Or here's an even better idea. Change your name to Billy Aaaaaaaa.

AN ANONYMOUS READER WRITES: "I have a suggestion for you. Here goes: Like a contest, I guess... Ask readers to send pictures of themselves with movie stars, singers, celebrities, etc. Political figures do not count. (i.e. **Matthew Coon Come** and **Robert Kennedy Jr.**, **Billy Diamond** and **Robert Bourassa**, **Ted Moses** and **the Pope**, etc...) Just a suggestion." Now why didn't we think of that? Your wishes are our commands, dear readers. Send in photos of yourselves with famous or better yet, infamous people doing whatever. Please, do not send pornography. Thanks for even considering it, though. Before the sponsor changes his mind, a prize is being offered. The prize? It will be entirely up to you. Your wish is our command. Within reason and finances of course.

Speaking of famous people. **Dolph Lundgren**, better known as Ivan Drago in one of the many Rocky movies, is in town working on a movie. Someone called up *The Nation*'s resident Kung Fu expert and News Editor **Alex Roslin** and offered him a chance to appear as a stuntperson. Roslin's part would have called for him to swing from the top of an elevator and kick his Dolphness in the chest. Or so he claims. He kept mum, however, on what happened later that night with **Grace Jones** on the casting couch.

A KOREAN FILM crew is roaming around in the territory working on yet another documentary on us. Get ready for your closeups.

We have reached another milestone here at *The Nation* ™. The issue in your hand has 44, count 'em, pages!!!

Ndiamon

the Nation

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WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER: 5413 HUTCHISON, MONTREAL, QC., H2V 4B4
PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE
5678 PARC AVE.
P.O. BOX 48036
MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

E-MAIL ADDRESS: beesum@odyssee.net

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Dismissed teacher wants old job back

Hugh Mahabir says the evidence of sexual misconduct that got him fired as a teacher in Chisasibi was fabricated, and he wants his old job back.

"A lot of the evidence that you have there is fabricated and it's meant to destroy me," said Mahabir in a phone interview from his home in Montreal.

Mahabir is involved in the longest-running labour dispute that the Cree School Board has on its files.

In 1990, he was dismissed by the School Board after 20 letters were written by children and parents alleging that he had used sexually inappropriate language in his classes. Mahabir taught Secondary I and II English and Math.

The CEQ teachers' union took the School Board to an arbitrator, who threw out the complaints in 1992 and decided Mahabir should be taken back as a teacher. The arbitrator said the witnesses against Mahabir "have not been able to express their thoughts in a coherent and articulate way."

The School Board refused to take Mahabir back, and requested a judicial review of the decision. The Quebec Superior Court was next to hear the case. It also decided in Mahabir's favour. Six years after he was dismissed, the case is now being heard by the Quebec Court of Appeal.

During this time, Mahabir has not been teaching.

One of the witnesses against Mahabir was student Patricia Bobbish, daughter of Nancy Bobbish, the school's current principal. "He always looks at girl's 'behinds.'... He told us a story about him at Mammoweedow Minshtukch and said that his tent was shaking a lot and it was very hot in his tent... He was once teaching us how to construct an angle and he was referring it to legs," she said, adding that he had also referred to genitals. "Once he said, 'It's Friday night, time to party and have sex?'"

Testimony was also given by parents. "In class he has made numerous comments regarding sex," said one. "The girls also complained that the teacher has been staring at various parts of their body during class."

Two other parents mentioned one alleged incident involving Mahabir. "Once he brought with him a white plastic bag to the classroom. After he had emptied the bag he jokingly asked one of the boys if he would care to have the plastic bag to use later that night in a sexual activity."

Another parent, Caroline Bobbish, said she believed her daughter's complaints about Mahabir. She said she had worked with Mahabir at the school herself and "heard him talk in this way myself."

After pages of complaints, the union's defense is only two paragraphs long. The union defended Mahabir by saying it is common practice among math teachers to use the word "legs" in describing a triangle. The union also said Mahabir was justified in speaking about "reproduction" in class because he taught about ecology.

The labour arbitrator, Bernard Lefebvre, ruled that while Mahabir may have offended some, the complaints were "of little importance" and "can be explained by the difference in culture." Lefebvre added: "We can admit that behaviour that is judged to be immoral in a Cree community would be judged as acceptable in another community."

by Alex Roslin

Court: dirty words shouldn't get teacher fired

Chisasibi teacher David Pepabano may have hit a student with a ruler and used inappropriate sexual language in class, but that doesn't mean he should have been fired, a labour court has ruled.

Pepabano was dismissed by the Cree School Board in 1994 after complaints of misconduct and "immorality."

Pepabano was accused of sexually touching two girls aged 12 and 14, one of whom stopped going to school and tried to take her life. He also allegely hit some students, and often used sexual language in front of students and teachers.

Two 13-year-old students said Pepabano threatened to have sex with the children's mothers and grandmothers.

Pepabano, a Chisasibi resident, is one of the Cree School Board's pioneers of Cree culture education.

The CEQ teachers' union defended Pepabano and the case went to labour court. Hearings were held in Chisasibi, Radisson and Montreal between Jan. and Nov. 1995.

François Fortier, a labour arbitrator, decided in July 1996 that the Cree School Board should not have fired Pepabano and he should be taken back as a teacher.

In his decision, Fortier acknowledged that Pepabano had not acted properly in some situations. "David Pepabano used vulgar language in the class and in the school in the presence of students and teachers. I am convinced that he regularly used inappropriate language," he ruled.

"Pepabano gave a small kick to one student to get him to leave the class." But Fortier added: "This single incident, without any details about the circumstances and the student concerned not having been heard in this court, can not lead to any grand conclusions."

Fortier dismissed most of the complaints, including the allegation of sexual touching. Fortier said the students may have complained about Pepabano simply because they were bored learning about the Cree culture.

The School Board refused to take Pepabano back and requested a judicial review of the arbitrator's decision. The case is now before Quebec Superior Court. Pepabano has not been teaching while the case is in court. —*Alex Roslin*

Corrections

Due to an editing mistake, in the Nov. 8 issue of *The Nation* we cited the wrong source for the information we printed about the case of Chisasibi teacher Hugh Mahabir, who is in court with the Cree School Board. The information did not in fact come from François Badin, CSB personnel director, but from public documents to which Badin referred us.

Also, in our Nov. 22 issue, we incorrectly identified the Elder in the photo on page 11 as Alan Iserhoff. The Elder is actually Matthew Coon Come Sr.

We apologize for any confusion these mistakes may have caused.

Support against Hydro-Quebec

Letter to *The Nation*:

Thank you for sending us the Aug. 30 and Sept. 13 issues of *The Nation*, with the articles on Hydro-Quebec spraying herbicides. I was glad to have been able to contribute some of the Committee for the Protection of Health and the Environment of Gaspé's (CPHEG) expertise on the subject.

After having supported the Cree Nation since 1989 in its struggle against Phase II of the James Bay project, we hope that the Cree people will also win out against the poisoning of the land.

Margret Grenier, CPHEG President
Douglastown, Que.

Students won't lose status

Letter to *The Nation*:

In an interview printed in *The Nation* (Oct. 25), Mr. Justice Réjean Paul asserts that Cree students who study off-reserve lose their beneficiary statuses. He maintains: "Look at the younger generation. A lot of them will lose their status because they are studying." This assertion by Justice Paul is erroneous; the Cree School Board does not penalize students who study in the south.

If a Cree decides to leave the territory, that is, the James Bay territory of Northern Quebec, for educational purposes, he is not affected by the Ten Year clause (Clause 3.2.7 of the James Bay

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Maamuitaau may not survive CBC cuts

Maamuitaau may not survive the next round of CBC cutbacks.

The Cree-language weekly TV show, which has been aired for 14 years, is not likely to survive unless there is a public outcry, said Suzanne Aubin, manager of CBC North-Quebec.

"That's one hope we have—that the public outcry will be loud enough. But in the state we're at now, it's a pretty dim hope," said Aubin.

After over a decade of continuous cutbacks in CBC's budget, Ottawa is cutting $414 million more over the next three years. Regional shows will be hit hardest. CBC North is losing 28 per cent of its radio budget, and 39 per cent of its spending on TV. That means 27 to 33 jobs lost out of a total of 154 at CBC North.

CBC North now has three TV shows covering the entire North—news shows in English and Inuktitut that run half an hour every day, and Maamuitaau. CBC figures it can save money by killing Maamuittau.

"They have to re-evaluate what they can give to the public with 40-per-cent less budget," said Aubin.

Aubin said she herself volunteered to take a pay cut and will only be working four days a week. "That gives us a little more money for direct services," she said.

Already, the cutbacks have sparked opposition from northern and First Nations leaders. The Eastmain First Nation has passed a resolution supporting CBC North, and Zebedee Nungak of Makivik Corp. has written to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps protesting against the cutbacks.

Manitok Thompson, an NWT cabinet minister, recently travelled to Ottawa to meet CBC President Perrin Beatty. To his surprise, she spoke only in Inuktitut, and there were no translators present. Later, Thompson explained that she wanted Beatty to understand how an Inuk feels in a sea of foreign languages.

Audrey McLaughlin, MP for the Yukon, has introduced a private members' bill in the House of Commons calling for a stop to the cutbacks to CBC North.

If Maamuitaau is eliminated, the CBC may keep on some of the staff so they can produce occasional features on the Crees for the daily English-language show on CBC North.

But only two Cree communities now get CBC North. This means Maamuitaau will probably stay on the air until CBC figures out how to get CBC North to all the Cree communities, Aubin said. Ironically, this will cost the CBC more money, even though the reason for eliminating Maamuitaau is to save money, she added.

Apart from possibly killing Maamuittau, an announcer-producer position in CBC North-Quebec's office is also being cut. Money for travel, expenses and free-lancers is also getting tighter.

On top of that, another possible casualty is Radio Canada International, which carries the CBC signal into bush camps in Eeyou Estchee and across the North.

Last year, RCI almost fell victim to the cutbacks, but at the last minute it was given another year to stay on the air. The year-long reprieve expires in April.

"We've been given no reason to believe that the bail-out will persist past April," said Craig Yeo of CBC North's Yellowknife office.

by Alex Roslin

Royal Commission finishes work

Six years after it was created, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples has released its much-awaited final report on the state of the First Nations.

The 4,000-page report makes 400 recommendations, including a call for billions of dollars of new spending to address the needs of the First Nations and bring their living conditions up to Canadian standards.

The commission was created in 1991 as a response to the Oka Crisis.

The Nation didn't obtain a copy of the report in time for this issue, but we'll have a full report in the next edition.

Already, Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin has called the report unrealistic, and said the government doesn't have the money to meet First Nations needs.

"You shouldn't believe that if we spend all this money, all the problems will be resolved and it will be paradise. It doesn't work that way," Irwin said.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come has criticized Irwin for his response, calling him "very arrogant" and "shameful."

"I am very disappointed at the moment because I believe they could redeem themselves if they show clearly their support for the report's recommendations," said Coon Come, as reported by *Le Journal de Montreal*.

The Grand Chief said Native living conditions are a grave social problem for Canada and constitute a "ticking timebomb."

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Klik Lite is just one of many foods that are now being designated as "healthier" in a campaign by Northern Stores. Any food that has a purple sticker on it is considered to be more nutritional, less fatty and healthier for those with diabetes.

Daniella Demaré, a nutritionist with the North West Co., said the main goal of the new program is "to prevent and

continued on page 9

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continued from page 7

control diabetes... We look at diabetes as an epidemic in the North."

"People want to eat healthier but they don't know what to look for," said Demaré.

Diabetes rates are two times higher in Native communities than in the South, according to studies. Diabetes has become a problem as Native people have switched to eating more store-bought foods, which are less healthy than traditional foods.

The purple stickers will be seen in Waskaganish, Chisasibi, Eastmain and Wemindji.

Demaré said the food with a purple sticker won't cost more. You will see purple stickers on foods like: lower fat dairy products, canned fruit without sugar, 100% orange juice (instead of Tang, which has added sugar), and whole wheat bread (instead of white bread).

Mist. B-ball

The results are in from the Mistissini 2nd Invitational Basketball Tournament, held Nov. 7 to 10.

SEMI-FINALS

BOYS: 37- Chisasibi VS. Mist. Screaming Eagles -54
GIRLS: 33- Mist. VS. O.J. -14
BOYS: 30- Wemindji VS. Mist. II -50
WOMEN: 22- Mist. 22 VS. Chisasibi -44
MEN A: 54- Chib-Oujay-Mist. VS. Chisasibi Storm -63
MEN B: 28- Mist. D.T. VS. Chiboug. -58
MEN A: 43- Eastm. VS. Mist. Falcons -67
MEN B: 29- Mist. Lakers VS. Chisasibi -28

FINALS

GIRLS: 31- Wemindji VS. Mist. -26
BOYS: 35- Mist. Screaming Eagles VS. Mistissini I -68
WOMEN: 33- Mist. Screamers VS. Chisasibi -23
MEN B: 55- Chiboug. VS. Mist. Lakers -41
MEN A: 44- Chis. VS. Mist. Falcones -60

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

TOP SCORERS:
Girls: Tiffany Neeposh (Mist. Bulls) 63 pts.
Boys: Jimmy-Paul Coon Come (Mist. I) 53 pts.
Women: Roberta Petawabano (Mist. Screamers) 89 pts.
Men B: Louie-Rene Kanatewat (Chis. Boys II Men) 59 pts.
Men A: Michel Lavoie (Chib-Oujay-Mist.) 49 pts.

MVPs:

Boys: Jimmy-Paul Coon Come (Mist. I)
Girls: Tiffany Neeposh (Mist. Bulls)
Women: Roberta Petawabano (Mist. Screamers)
Men B: Yannick Demont (Chib. Rebels)
Men A: Philip Voyageur (Mist. Falcons)

BEST SPORTSMANSHIP:

Boys: Joshua Loon (Mist. I)
Girls: Elizabeth Shashaweskum (Wemindji Bulls)
Women: Mimie Neacappo (Chis. Cougars)
Men B: Stanley Longchap (Mist. Lakers)
Men A: Paul Pachano (Chis. Storm)

Essay Contest

CALLING ALL STUDENTS!! The 3rd Annual *The Nation*/CSB Essay Contest is upon us.

The deadline is Dec. 13. Over $2,000 in prizes are being offered. Three categories: Cree, English and French. Topics include: Elders, Cree culture and values, sports, business, political and social issues, legends, Cree future, personal experiences, education, etc.

Entries can be faxed to: (514) 278-9914, emailed to: beesum@odyssee.net, or mailed to: 5678 Parc Ave., P.O.B. 48036, Montreal, Qc. H2V 4S8.

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ᐊᑎᓇᑎᒪᒪᓕᐊᖅᑎᓪ. ᐊᓂᐊᑦ ᐅᕐᔪᑦ ᐊᓐᑦ ᐃᓕᑎᓇᓕᐸᐃᖅᑎᓪ ᐊᓂᐊᑦ. ᓇᓐᖑ ᐊᖅᑎᓕᐅᓂᖅᑎᓪ ᐊᖅᑭᒻᒪᖅ ᐊᓐᑦ. ᐊᖅᑎᓕᐅᓂᖅᑎᓪ ᒥᓪᑎᓄ ᐊᓂᕐᔪᑦ ᐊᐃᓐᓂᖅ ᐊᓐᑦ. ᐊᖅᑎᓕᐅᓂᖅᑎᓪ ᐅᑐᓂ. ᐃᓕᓴᐅᔪᖅ ᐊᓐᑦ ᐊᖅᑭᒻᒪᖅ ᐊᓐᑦ. ᐊᖅᑎᓕᐅᓂᖅᑎᓪ

The Legend of the lost man

Told by Nancy Rupert

The legend I'm going to tell isn't very long. It is said that a man got lost long ago. He got lost in a very thick fog. He was paddling in a canoe. He had no idea where to paddle to. Then he was paddling over here. He saw something dark. He knew the darkness he saw was trees. That was where he paddled to. He had found land.

He went towards the shore. Someone came down to the shore. He was very tall — taller than the trees. This being reached down and grabbed the man's canoe with him in it. I don't know if the man was paddling with his wife. The being picked up the canoe and went off with it and the man under his arm into the bush.

After some walking, the being arrived at his miichiwaahp. He laid the canoe in the place where he stayed. The man was still in the canoe. There was someone speaking from the entrance — peeking in and saying, "Bring those little people you found. We want to eat them." That was what the person said whenever she peeked in.

"Grandchild, ignore them," said the one who carried the man off in his canoe. "I am the one who has control of them." The man ignored them.

On the sticks that were laid across in the miichiwaahp, there were extremely large intestines hanging there. "Grandson, you must see those hanging there," he said to the man. "You must think that they are intestines from a great giant."

And those intestines were large. "Those aren't from a great giant. Those are intestines from a small giant," said the being.

"Yesterday, your grandfather really looked into the intestines. Now, those were intestines from a great giant."

The man must have been thinking, "My goodness, how large were those intestines from a great 'monster giant' (Atuush), compared to the size of these small giant intestines, as he refers to them!"

The fog was still very thick. Then the being thought that the man should paddle home.

"For when you paddle home, I will give you my puppy," the being said to the man. The man said to him, "OK."

The being just took the canoe under his arm again and took him down to the shore. The puppy was sitting over on the bow. The being told the man, "You will look at my puppy. Wherever he faces, that is where you will paddle to."

The man paddled. He only looked at the puppy. Wherever the puppy faced, that was where the man paddled to. He was paddling for a long time. The place he came from must have been far. Then he reached the spot where he would land his canoe.

As he paddled towards the shore, he heard someone. It was his grandfather. He heard his grandfather saying, "Come here, my puppy." The puppy that the man was looking at jumped from the canoe onto the shore. It became big as it ran to where the man's grandfather was calling from. The puppy had saved the man from the place he got lost.

It was said that his Mishdaabaau had forgotten him. I guess the Mishdaabaau had lost the man. And this was probably how the Mishdaabaau first found him again. I guess the man had a Mishdaabaau. That was the legend that was told. I don't know more how the story is told. That is what I heard about the man.

Taped by Beulah Stewart

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POSTING

CREE SCHOOL BOARD

COMPETITION NUMBER: MTL-666

AFFICHAGE INTERNE ET EXTERNE

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

NO. DE CONCOURS: MTL-666

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Superintendent of Equipment Services — Trainee Position

Location of Work: Mistissini

Core Functions: Within the framework of the Cree Replacement Program, Equipment Services needs a beneficiary of the James Bay Agreement as a trainee for the position of Superintendent. During a period of one (1) year, the individual will learn the different tasks to be carried out in such position and receive additional training to complete his/her knowledge in technical and administrative management. If the one (1) year training is successful in order for the individual to meet the requirements, he/she will take over the position on a permanent basis.

The position of Superintendent of Equipment Services comprises the responsibility for the management of technical, administrative and manual programs for all auxiliary services related to supply, school transportation, maintenance, management of energetic supply and insurance.

Minimum Required Qualifications:

- Bilingualism (French and English);
- Knowledge of the Cree language is essential;
- Willingness to travel;
- Valid qualification certificate for the practice of a trade relevant to this position and ten (10) years of relevant experience.

OR

- Diploma of college studies in an appropriate field and six (6) years of relevant experience.

Working Conditions:

Duration: one (1) year or longer if necessary. According to the By-Law respecting the conditions of employment of the Senior Management staff of the Cree School Board.

Please forward your application to:

Personnel Services
Cree School Board
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste, (Québec)
G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2072

Date of Posting: November 27, 1996

Régisseur des Services de l'Equipment — Poste de Stagiaire

Lieu de Travail: Mistissini

Nature du Travail: Dans le cadre du Programme de remplacement, le Service de l'equipement recherche un ou une stagiaire qui est un bénéficiaire de la convention de la Baie James, pour le poste de Régisseur. Pendant une période d'un an, la personne choisie sera mise en contact avec les différentes tâches à accomplir dans ce poste et recevra une formation additionnelle en gestion des programmes techniques et administratifs pour compléter ses connaissances. Si la formation d'une période d'un an permet à l'individu de rencontrer les exigences du poste, il ou elle occupera ce poste de façon permanente.

L'emploi de régisseur des services de l'équipement comporte la responsabilité de la gestion des programmes techniques, administratifs et manuels pour l'ensemble des services auxiliaires relatif à l'approvisionnement, le transport scolaire, l'entretien, la gestion de l'énergie et des assurances.

Qualifications minimales requises:

- Bilinguisme (français et anglais);
- Connaissance de la langue crie est essentielle
- Doit être prêt à voyager;
- Certificat de qualification valide pour l'exercise d'un métier pertinent à l'emploi et dix (10) années d'expérience pertinente.

OU

- Diplôme d'études collégiales avec option appropriée et six (6) années d'expérience pertinente.

Conditions d'Emploi:

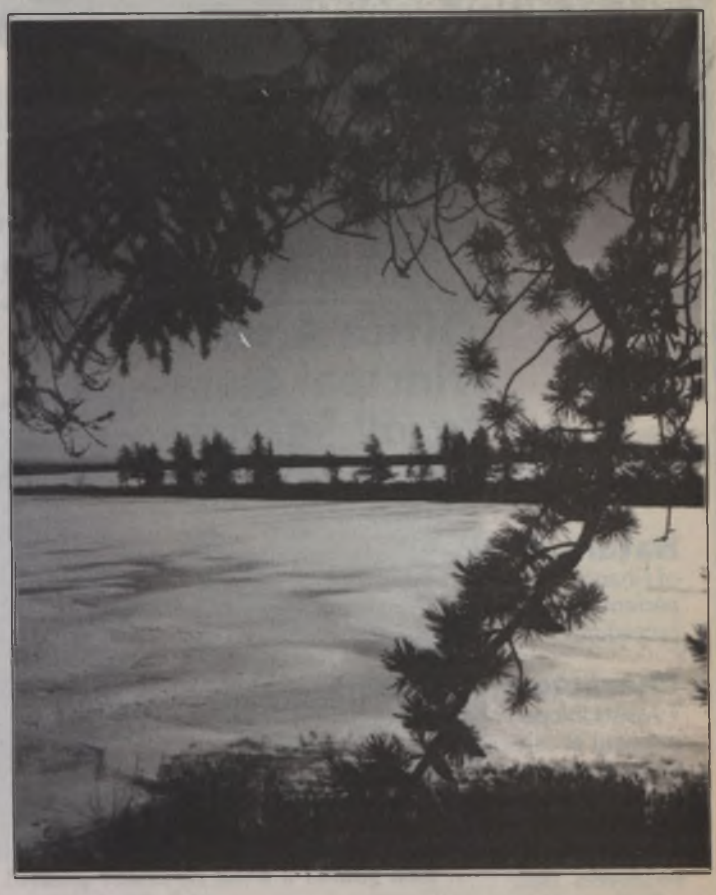
Durée: un (1) an ou plus si nécessaire.
Selon les politiques administratives relatives aux Condition d'Emploi de Cadres de la Commission Scolaire Crie.

S.V.P. Faire parvenir vos candatures au:

Service du Personnel
Commission Scolaire Crie
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste, (Québec), G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2072

Date d'Affichage: le 27 novembre, 1996

END OF POSTING: December 13, 1996
FIN D'AFFICHAGE: le 13 décembre, 1996



A Safe Place: Women's Shelters

By Marilyn Bearskin Herodier

THIS ISSUE WE will talk about one of the reasons why women can't get out of abusive relationships and maybe we can help by telling women that there are resources for them, like women's shelters.

First of all, let's ask ourselves why can't they get out and try to end the abuse?

One reason many women can't leave is because family members just aren't supportive enough. Mind you, for some women, family are very supportive. But the sad fact is, there are families that believe a couple should stay together for the children, or because they said their vows in front of God and vowed to stay together till death.

Not to judge anyone because of what they were taught, but respect should be the most important aspect in a relationship and of course, when someone is abused there is no respect being given to that person.

It is also damaging for the children. Children need a peaceful, loving and stable home most of all, even if it is only with one parent. How can it be good for children to live in fear, and to see their mother being degraded?

We can't change the beliefs of older generations, but we can teach young couples that it doesn't necessarily have to be like that. You don't have to stay in a relationship where you are constantly being judged, put down and beaten.

But for many women, family beliefs are what make them stay. There is usually pressure from family for the couple to come to some reconciliation. But what the family doesn't understand is that the woman has come to the point where she has begun to feel empathy towards the abuse. She's in a web and can't get out. She is also constantly living in fear. When will he hit her next? Will he break her bones? Kill her? Living in fear doesn't give her much of a life.

But we can't only blame family beliefs for keeping abusive relationships going, as there are many reasons why women can't leave. But I think when a women goes through abuse, family should be the first people she can count on. If not, another option is women's shelters. To be fully informed, we will tell you a bit about women's shelters and what they do.

I had an interview with the Val d'Or Women's Shelter "Le Nid" and I felt so much warmth from the workers and the women staying there. At the Shelter, women were smiling, because they had reason to smile, because they were treated with respect and given back some of their self-esteem, because no one was degrading them.

Mrs. Yvette Saucier, one of the workers at the Val d'Or Shelter, tells us a bit about how the Shelter works. She also mentions that all of the six workers at the Shelter have experienced some kind of abuse. For abused women, I think talking with someone who has personally experienced some of what they've gone through is good for them. Because the person they are talking to can relate to their situation.

So to women who want to get out, please take into consideration that women's shelters should be one of your options to end the abuse. Because you HAVE to get out, because no one should have to live in fear of anyone.

The Val d'Or Women's Shelter "Le Nid" is situated in the old part of Val d'Or and was founded in 1983. It is a home which accommodates 12 women and their children. The staff has taken many security measures so women and children will feel safe. Two video cameras have been installed for prowlers and the windows are unbreakable. For confidentiality from outsiders, the windows are tinted. There is a special computer-coded lock at the front door, so not just anyone can go in. Only the staff and women staying there know the code. The women's shelter not only makes the women feel at home, but also the children. There is a playroom and many toys, so the children can play and not feel so homesick. The women and staff also have weekly meetings to talk about themselves and/or make any complaints they have about the shelter.

Yvette Saucier and I spoke after my tour of the shelter and she answered some questions.

Marilyn Bearskin Herodier: The first question I'd like to ask you, Yvette, is how many Native women come to this shelter?

Yvette Saucier: In 1995-1996, our statistics on women that came here to the Shelter in Val d'Or were that 111 women and 104 children. 30% of these were Native women.

Cont'd on page 15

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POSTING

CREE SCHOOL BOARD

COMPETITION NUMBER: MIS-688

AFFICHAGE INTERNE ET EXTERNE

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

NO. DE CONCOURS: MIS-688

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Office Agent Principal Class Payroll Services

Location of Work: Mistissini

Nature of Work: Under the direction of the Coordinator of Financial Services, the office agent principal class consists of performing administrative functions according to methods and procedures of a complex and specialized nature.

Characteristic Functions:

- Assists in opening files of regular employees, to process payment of services;
- Collaborates in the preparation and verification of reports for various government agencies including C.A.R.R.A. and P.E.R.C.O.S.;
- Enters all new transactions, modifications and adjustments for employees' files;
- Replies to personal inquiries regarding employee's pay;
- Assists the Administrative Technician when required;
- If need be, performs any other related tasks.

Required Qualifications: Secondary V diploma with appropriate option or some equivalence.
Six (6) years of pertinent experience.

Employment Conditions: Full-time, 35 hours/week

Salary: $15.64/hr to $18.22/hr
Pension Plan and collective Insurance Plan etc.

Beginning of Employment: Immediately

Please forward your application to:

Personnel Services
Cree School Board
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste, Quebec
G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2073

Always mention competition number: MIS-688

Date of Posting: November 27, 1996

Agente de Bureau Classe Principale — Services de la Paie

Lieu de Travail: Mistissini

Nature du Travail: Sous l'autorité du Coordonnateur du services des finances, le rôle principal et habituel de l'agent du bureau classe principale consiste à accomplir un ensemble de travaux administratifs selon des méthodes et procédures de nature relativement complexe et spécialisée.

Attributions Caractéristiques:

- Assiste à l'ouverture des dossiers des employés réguliers pour le traitement de la paie.
- Collaborer aux préparations et vérifications des rapports destinés à diverses agences gouvernementales, incluant C.A.R.R.A. et P.E.R.C.O.S.
- Entrer toutes nouvelles transactions, modifications et ajustements nécessaires pour régulariser les dossiers des employés.
- Répondre aux demandes personnelles des employés au sujet de leur paie.
- Au besoin: - assiste le Technicien en administration du service de la paie,
  - accomplit toute autre tâche connexe.

Qualifications Requises: Diplôme de secondaire V, avec option appropriée ou un équivalent;
Six (6) années d'expérience pertinente.

Conditions d'Emploi: Temps plein, 35 heures/semaine

Salaire: $15.64/hre à $18.22/hre.

Date d'entrée en fonction: Immédiatement

S.V.P. Faire parvenir vos candatures au:

Service du Personnel
Commission Scolaire Crie
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste, Québec, G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2073

Toujours mentionner le no. de concours: MIS-688
Date d'Affichage: le 27 novembre, 1996

END OF POSTING: December 11, 1996
FIN D'AFFICHAGE: le 11 décembre, 1996

For our future, children need a loving and stable home.

MBH: Do they say why they don't go to the shelters run by Natives?

YS: They don't say why, but some did mention they don't go to the shelters run by Natives because everyone knows everyone and they are embarrassed to go.

MBH: Why do women go to women's shelters? Why don't they settle their problems at home?

YS: Because it is too dangerous for them. There is no reasoning with a man who uses violence to settle a problem. When they come here they can think in peace.

MBH: Do you provide counselling both for the woman and her husband?

YS: We only counsel women. These shelters are for women. We can't do everything. If we started trying to counsel the men also, how exhausted would women be? It would take away too much of our energy and we wouldn't have our full concentration to deal with conjugal violence and trying to get the women out of their abusive situations.

It's a long process to work with women who are severely emotionally abused. A group of men here in Val d'Or started a support group for themselves and they meet every week. It only takes two people to start a support group.

MBH: Why do we need women's shelters?

YS: Women need shelters because shelters are their support. At shelters women can build up their self-esteem. And it also gives them a place to think about the situation they are in. Some women face life-and-death situations at home and here they are made to feel safe.

Yvette Saucier has been working at the Val d'Or Shelter for 10 years and she is a survivor of spousal abuse. We would like to thank her for taking the time to share her knowledge with Nation readers. Thank you very much, Yvette Saucier.

In the next issue The Nation will do a readers poll to find out what you think about domestic violence. There will be questions for everyone to answer, anonymously, so you can give us your views. Both men and women, young and old, are encouraged to participate. Meegwetch.

TIERRA MADRE

sacred earth

Reverend Dario Caal, a Mayan Catholic priest from Guatemala, recently dropped by *The Nation* to speak about the life of Native people in his country.

In Guatemala, the land is owned by the few and the rich. The Native people who have lived there for thousands of years are on the margins of society.

Rev. Caal spoke of the 35-year civil war between Guatemala's U.S.-funded army and the mostly Native peasants. The war has claimed 100,000 lives. December 7 will be the 14th anniversary of one of the greatest tragedies of the war, the massacre of over 800 men, women and children in the peasant community known as The 2Rs.

The rebels and army are now in peace talks, but these talks aren't dealing with the reasons the fighting broke out in the first place, says Rev. Caal. He said the army is still in control of the country, Native people haven't gotten their ancestral lands back and they have no political voice in Guatemala.

Thanks to Mary Ellen Davis for translating Rev. Caal's remarks. Mary Ellen has made an award-winning film about the life of the Mayan people and other peasants in Guatemala called "Tierra Madre" ("Sacred Earth"). Rev. Caal speaks in the film, which was recently shown in theatres in Montreal. Copies are available from Cinéma Libre at (514) 849-7888.

Reverend Dario Caal

By Alex Roslin

***The Nation*: What is the situation of the Native people in Guatemala?**

Rev. Dario Caal: During the last 500 years, few things have changed for the Native people, except some details in the form of domination and oppression. The problems have changed only in name in the past 500 years.

How many of the Guatemalan people are Native?

Out of 10 or 11 million Guatemalans, 60 or 70 per cent are Native people. But the people who have arrived from Europe are the ones who are leading the country now. The Native people today are not even considered by the ruling class to be the descendants of the Mayan civilization. They say that the Maya disappeared or even left.

There is an ancient Mayan tomb from those days, and some people claim that the tomb is devoted to an astronaut who came from another planet, and then he went back. So they say the Mayas have gone, and these people who are still here are just "Indians"—peasants.

In Spanish the word "Indios" is a put-down. They are even considered to be the cause of the country's poverty because they're supposedly uneducated and backward.

The problems go back more than just 35 years, when the guerrilla war started. They go back centuries. But since the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Europeans, there has been a rising of awareness of the Native people. This is very positive.

Within the political system, there is no participation whatsoever of Native people. But recently, a political party was formed, the Democratic Front of New Guatemala, which is concentrated on popular organizations, Native people, unions, human-rights groups. This is very good.

They can become a real alternative if they address the issue of the participation of the Native people. Or they can follow the usual route of a political party and just be there to represent themselves.

The idea of creating a new political party, this is not the solution by itself. The solution is to advance an alternative way of doing politics.

We've heard about the violence of the military and the death squads in Guatemala. Is it mostly directed toward the Native people?

First of all, you have to understand that the Guatemalan army is one of the most criminal ones in the history of Latin America. And most people outside the country know that.

For example, there is one military battalion called the Kaibils, which is like the Green Berets (U.S. Special Forces) and was trained by U.S. military advisors. They have been one of the most violent groups in the repression.

A peace agreement was recently signed to reduce the size of the army and reintegrate the fighters on both sides—the army and the guerrilla—back into the society. But people have doubts about

Rio Chajmaic, Seta Verapaz

this agreement because the army is so numerous, and they actually keep growing. When they are reduced, how much will they actually be reduced?

The military are very, very numerous. They are all over the country. There are military zones in every small town. The military is involved in all aspects of Guatemalan society. Will this reduction mean that they will get out of all the affairs that should be dealt with by the civilian government?

There is education—they have their own secondary schools all over the country. They have a bank.

The military?!

Yes, it's part of the army! They have a TV channel—Channel 5 is theirs. They have their own supermarkets. They control all the maps of the country. The building of bridges and roads. So how much are they going to lose and how much are they going to keep?

The higher levels of the military are the ones that control the whole country. They manipulate the people. They've managed to militarize the whole culture of the country. And who forms the troops of the military? The Native people. Before, they were recruited forcibly. Now, they want to get in because they need jobs. They are promised education and a wage.

Also, during the worst violence, it was Native people who had enrolled in the army themselves who were conducting the massacres, enforced by the higher powers. This is the result of the militarization of the whole country.

People have been turned against each other.

Yes. They've turned a Native person as a wolf against another Native person.

Right now, the army is promoting itself as an alternative. They don't want to lose anything in this peace process. What they're doing is convincing people to join them by promising them an education, promising them a wage when there's no work. So when they reduce the army, the only people they will reduce is the foot soldier and the higher levels will be left untouched.

Do you feel it is important for the Church to work to stop these injustices?

The Church owes not only through charity, but moral obligation. The demands will come from the people in their struggle for improving their lives, for their social and political concerns.

Because of the Church's work, relations with the private plantation owners have deteriorated quite badly. They see the Church's work with the people as a sin. But we feel that we still must go ahead to support the people in their attempts to play an active role in their own historical process. If this means the plantation owners must respect the law and respect the workers, then that should be done.

Have any people in the Church been targeted for the repression?

Right in the region where my parish is, the Polochic River, the plantation owners formed an organization—they call it the Plantation Owners' Organization of Guatemala—that has enormous power. They wrote a document of 100 pages where they justify the existing inequalities in the country, and also accuse the Church of promoting disorder and counseling the peasants in forms of protest. In this document, they publish the names of the priests and of the people who work with the peasants and the Native communities. And they feel that this work is diabolical. It's not only the priests—it's also the lay preachers, who are called catechists in Guatemala.

There is an organization called the Confederation of Religious Congregations of Guatemala, who have a list of all the priests and lay preachers who over the years have fallen, paid with their lives to the repression.

There is another part of the country, San Marcos, where last April or May there was an open letter written by an organization which has no address. There is a situation in San Marcos where Native people are occupying private land, and this letter accused

cont'd on page 19

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POSTING

CREE SCHOOL BOARD

COMPETITION NUMBER: MTL-686

AFFICHAGE INTERNE ET EXTERNE

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

NO. DE CONCOURS: MTL-686

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Administrative Technician— Post Secondary Office

Location of Work: Montreal

Nature of Work: Within the framework of the Cree Replacement Program, the Post Secondary office needs a beneficiary of the James Bay Agreement for a position of Administrative Technician. Under the supervision of the Coordinator of Post Secondary Programs, the work of this employee consists of performing various kinds of technical tasks related to the management of financial resources, systems and procedures. The preparation and implementation of standards related to accounting, finance and the data processing function of the program. Futhermore, this employee shall assist in performing various tasks of any administrative nature related to the satisfactory operation of the financial unit.

Required Qualifications:

- To have a college diploma in administration or a diploma or attestation of studies which is recognized as equivalent by the competent authority.
- Ability to speak Cree, English and French is a requirement.

Conditions of Employment: Regular, full-time position
35 hours/week.

Salary: According to salary scale based on experience from $13.38/hr - $20.09/hr.

Beginning of Employment: As soon as possible.

Please forward your application to:

Personnel Services
Cree School Board
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste, Quebec
G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2072

Always mention competition number: MTL-686

Date of Posting: November 27, 1996

Technicien en Administration Bureau du Post-Secondaire

Lieu de Travail: Montreal

Nature du Travail: Dans le cadre du Programme de remplacement, le bureau du Post-Secondaire recherche un ou une personne qui est bénéficiaire de la convention de la Baie James, pour le poste de technicien(ne) en administration. Sous l'autorité de la Coordonnatrice du programme post-secondaire, le rôle de l'employé(e) consiste à effectuer divers genres de travaux techniques reliés à la gestion des ressources financières et à l'organisation du travail. A l'élaboration et à la mise en application de normes reliées à la comptabilité, la finance et au traitement des données ainsi qu'à exécuter divers travaux à caractère financière en vue d'assurer la bonne marche des opérations.

Qualifications Requises:

- Être titulaire d'un diplôme collégiale en techniques administratives ou être titulaire d'un diplôme ou d'une attestation d'étude dont l'équivalence est reconnue par l'autorité compétente.
- Capacité de parler en cri, anglais et français est nécessaire.

Conditions d'Emploi: Poste régulier, temps plein.
35 hrs/semaine.

Salaire: Selon échelle salariale basée sur l'expérience entre $13.38/hre - $20.09/hre.

Date d'entrée en fonction: Le plus tôt possible.

S.V.P. Faire parvenir vos candatures au:

Service du Personnel
Commission Scolaire Crie
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste, Québec
G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2072

Toujours mentionner le no. de concours: MTL-686

Date d'Affichage: le 27 novembre, 1996

END OF POSTING: December 13, 1996
FIN D'AFFICHAGE: le 13 décembre, 1996

Children of Bensequixpeq

Tikal, Mayan Ceremonial Monument

the Church of being behind the situation. They openly threatened the Bishop and certain nuns with death. If they didn't leave that area, they would risk their lives. And they did this openly in the media with no acts against them and everybody knew who wrote it.

There is a strong reaction right now against the Church's involvement with matters that are of fundamental importance. Still, we feel that the Church should be occupied with spiritual matters, but also day-to-day matters of the people. That's why now there are certain private plantations where they don't even let us in. Anybody from the Catholic Church is *persona non grata* (unwelcome). Even though it's a public road, they have a barrier there and they won't let us in.

There are three problems which are not going to be resolved by the peace process, which is now finishing. That's the issue of the land, the military problem and the active participation of the Native people in the politics of the country. Unless this new party offers an alternative to the usual politics, these problems will not be resolved.

For the Cree people, there is a strong attachment to the land. Is there the same feeling among Native people in Guatemala?

The land, for us, is what gives us our feeling of identity. We are totally linked with the land we live on. The whole spiritual view of the Native people of Guatemala is linked to the land, their whole view of the world and life. It's fundamental in their spirituality.

What is the situation with the land in Guatemala?

There is a very unequal distribution of land. On top of that, the concept of private property is not something natural to the Native people, who cannot conceive that land can be broken into pieces and sold or rented in small lots. Not only is the Native concept of property not respected, but the few private plantation owners who own most of the land are not interested at all in selling or giving their land away. The government is not going to start buying land for the peasants. So the basic issue of lack of access to land is not going to be resolved in the near future and is not considered part of the peace treaty.

This means the private landowners did not react negatively to the peace agreement. They did not feel threatened by it. The land is not going to be given back to its historic owners. It is not even contemplated.

The signing of the peace agreement is okay in the sense that it will give a little pause, a little breathing room to people. But what is going to happen later on? Something must happen.

The government has tried to improve its image and has attacked certain problems like corruption and drug trafficking. That's good. But they're not addressing the issue of justice for the Native people.

The country has been suffering from pressures of drug trafficking and general violence in the streets. Guatemala is a bridge from drugs from South America.

Is the drug trafficking condoned or done by the government also?

There is a famous case happening right now. The government has had to accept responsibility because it was unveiled that generals in higher parts of the military were involved in corruption at the customs office related to drug trafficking. The Defense Minister had to resign in that scandal.

We are very concerned that the government, in trying to improve its image, will manage to convince international opinion that now everything is okay, the war is finished and people will walk away and not check on the accomplishments of the peace process. I am worried about that.

Cont'd on page 21

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POSTING

CREE SCHOOL BOARD

COMPETITION NUMBER: MTL-687

AFFICHAGE INTERNE ET EXTERNE

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

NO. DE CONCOURS: MTL-687

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Executive Secretary for the Coordinator of Post Secondary Programs

Location of Work: Montreal

Nature of Work: Within the framework of the Cree Replacement Program, the Post Secondary office needs a beneficiary of the James Bay Agreement for a position of Executive Secretary. The main and usual role of the employee in this category of employment consists of performing the tasks of Executive Secretary for the Coordinator of Post Secondary Programs.

Required Qualifications:

- To have a secondary school diploma or a diploma or attestation of studies, which is recognized as equivalent by the competent authority.
- At least four (4) years of relevant experience;
- Knowledge of typing, word processing, Word Perfect 5.1 and the arrangement of texts;
- Ability to speak Cree, English and French is a requirement.

Conditions of Employment: Regular, full-time position
35 hours/week.

Salary: $14.62/hr. to $16.02/hr.

Beginning of Employment: As soon as possible.

Please forward your application to:

Personnel Services
Cree School Board
203 Main Street
Mistissini, Quebec
G0W 1C0

Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2072

Date of Posting: November 27, 1996

Secretaire de Direction pour la Coordonnatrice du Programme Post-Secondaire

Lieu de Travail: Montreal

Nature du Travail: Dans le cadre du programme du remplacement, le bureau du Post-Secondaire recherche un ou une personne qui est bénéficiaire de la convention de la Baie James, pour le poste de secrétaire de direction. Le rôle principal et habituel de l'employé (e) de cette classe d'emploi consiste à remplir les fonctions de secrétaire de direction auprès de la coordonnatrice du programme post-secondaire.

Qualifications Requises:

- Être titulaire d'un diplôme de secondaire V, ou être titulaire d'un diplôme ou une attestation d'études dont l'équivalence est reconnue par l'autorité compétente.
- Quatre (4) années d'expérience pertinente.
- La connaissance de la dactylographie, du logiciel Word Perfect 5.1, et de la disposition des textes.
- Capacité de parler en cri, anglais et français est nécessaire.

Conditions d'Emploi: Poste régulier, temps plein.
35 hrs/semaine.

Salaire: $14.62/hre à $16.02/hre.

Date de debut d'emploi: Le plus tôt possible.

S.V.P. Faire parvenir vos candatures au:

Service du Personnel
Commission Scolaire Crie
203 Main Street
Mistissini, Québec
G0W 1C0

Tel.: (418) 923-2764
Fax: (418) 923-2072

Date d'Affichage: le 27 novembre, 1996

END OF POSTING: December 13, 1996
FIN D'AFFICHAGE: le 13 décembre, 1996

"The Earth is our Mother"

Excerpts from the film "Tierra Madre" about life in Guatemala by Mary Ellen Davis:

"The earth is our mother. She gives life to humanity. The land belongs to God. It belongs to the people. We don't view the land as private property. We understand land as a divinity and a mother. The earth divinity, Mother Earth, is also bonded to the human kind. The land nourishes humanity. The land allows us to live, to survive."

—Rev. Dario Caal, Mayan Catholic priest

"Our authorities have never asked themselves what it really means for the Native people to live and work at a community. Instead, they insist on imposing programs, studies and so-called "agrarian laws," based on the individual, instead of the community. The notion of private property is unknown within Native people's thought, their view of the world. Instead they see a bond between mankind and earth.

"In their view, there should not be any dividing lines, or borderlines. According to their rules of life, it would be a sin! *Tzuultaq'a* forbids it. *Tzuultaq'a* is the God who sees and does everything. Their mystical God. It may seem odd that I, who am not Native, know about these traditions, about their mystical world. The truth is, I'm part of the cultural conquest of the Native people! I admire their cultural strength and above all the Q'eqchi', who hold on to their traditions."

—Fredy Ochaeta, lawyer

Q: Why did you move to the Péten? "There was no more land left in the south. But there was some here, so I came with my brother... We wanted land. We found some at The 2Rs... And the years went by. Some 10 or 11 years later the great tragedy happened. And I was left alone. My wife died, along with my brother, his wife, his kids. And also a nephew of mine, who lived with us. My brother's six children, and his wife, and my wife, and my nephew."

—Survivor describes Dec. 7, 1982 massacre at The 2Rs by the army

"It all began on Sunday. The dogs were barking so loud you just couldn't sleep. And we heard the rumbling of convoys, and of canvas-covered trucks, carrying army troops. They arrived on Sunday night, and they took the dirt path to The 2Rs.

"We were told later that part of the troops went in by the path, in trucks, and another part marched in by the savannah: a battalion of Kaibils (*army special forces —Ed.*), who apparently came from La Pólvora. And they surrounded them. According to some survivors, they started coming in, saying that they were from the guerrilla. And then, with their weapons, they started rounding up everybody on Monday..."

—Another survivor

"They ruined our cardamom. Our plants feel pain. They spoiled our pepper, annato and coffee trees, and uprooted our corn. They pulled up everything. And now, what are we going to do? We are distressed: they killed our plants. So let us now fight back. We are angry at what he did to us. God help us defend our land now. Together we must not yield to the rich man. We are simple farmers, but we also want to live better. Let us not give in to the man who frightens us. If he flies over us again tomorrow, let us not be scared. Let us stay here and not move. We shall be brave and rebuild. The law will help us. Let's see if the law helps us, or not."

—Elder

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY ELLEN DAVIS

How important is the support of the U.S. and Canada to the Guatemalan government? If the government of Guatemala didn't receive that support from the outside, would it be able to remain in power and continue its repression?

Canada, I don't know. But for the United States, Guatemala has always been the backyard garden of the U.S. Not only does the military read the American newspapers and they see the money from the U.S., but they are trained by U.S. military advisors.

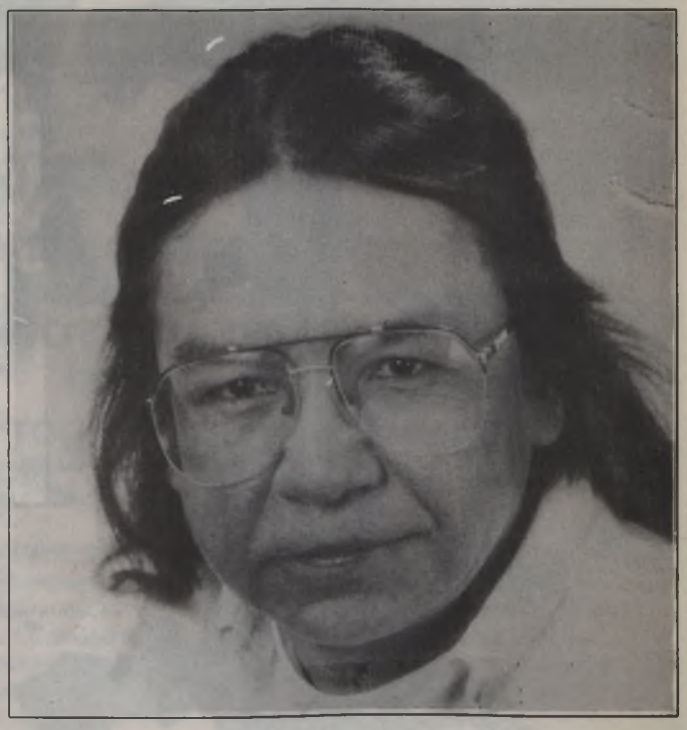
My parents lived in one of the "militarized zones" (*where the army conducted the heaviest repression —Ed.*) and they saw U.S. military planes unloading tanks and soldiers and equipment. There was recently the case of Alpires, which received international attention. The CIA (*U.S. Central Intelligence Agency*) had employed a Colonel of the Guatemalan army in the assassination of not only a guerrilla fighter, but also a U.S. citizen.

It's not only a question of local justice. We will also have to consider the responsibility of the U.S. in what happened in Guatemala. Right in the middle of the peace process, before it was even finished, the U.S. announced they were going to reinstate military aid to the Guatemalan army.

We feel that our people can live without weapons, without an army. I find it hard to understand how the U.S. can increase military aid, instead of reducing it at this time in our history.

Muchas gracias.
Gracias.

Robert Weistche: Steering the boat



Robert Weistche may be new to the position of Chairman of the Cree School Board, but he is entering the third year of his mandate as Waskaganish's School Board Commissioner. He has been on his community's parents' committee. He is also the proud father of four children. His eldest daughter has graduated, his son Malcolm is graduating this year and the other two, Barney and Darren, are currently in Grade 6 and Secondary I.

By William Nicholls

***The Nation*: What do you feel have been some of the accomplishments in your past term?**

Robert Weistche: When I started my term, the Chairman of the Board was Luke MacLeod. His focus in the education field was on the Language of Instruction and the use of Cree in the workplace. It was significant in that the Council of Commissioners passed the language policy in his term. The Council adopted a resolution that Cree would be the language of instruction across the board starting in 1999. It would be from Kindergarten up to Grade 3.

That, I feel was one of the significant milestones that we covered under his term. I think that these issues are very important. Luke has done a lot and put a lot of concentration into what he did.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming year?

That's a difficult question. What I mean is that my term is beginning as Chairman of the Board and my mandate from Waskaganish is ending so part of that will depend on how things go locally.

But if I was to answer the question directly I would have to say that coming on to this position as Chairman of the Board, I have given it a lot of thought. I talked to some people. I anticipated if my name ever came up that I would have to respond and I would have to take a position or decide what to do. Whether or not I would go for it. I decided to go for it because if you don't try something you'll never know if you can do it or not.

So some of the things that I've been preoccupied with is the position the Board is in today. Things are going well overall. But considering the composition of the Board, some of them are new and perhaps don't have a complete understanding or the big picture of what's going on. So I thought the first thing would be to request an internal report from all the management staff. This internal report would reflect some of the concerns and outstanding issues that need to be resolved. Some of the concerns that could be dealt with administratively and what needs to be dealt with at the political level by the Council of Commissioners. As well, we want to focus on what's happening across the country, like the Royal Commission's Report on Aboriginal People. It deals with all facets of Indian life but there is a big section on education.

With the CSB today I feel we are in the lead compared to some of the other Native school boards across the country. In the 20 years we've existed, I also feel this is a time to look inward to see where we are at. To look at what's going on in the CSB, both locally and regionally. We can't dismiss the national picture either. I have somebody working on that, trying to come up with a view of what's happening across the country and what are some of the things that the Commissioners could compare the CSB to.

So will you be looking at solutions that other Native groups have used within their own school boards?

I think we have a lot to learn from other people if we are open to that, to accepting other peoples' solutions. Why do we have to reinvent the wheel if we see something that works? To give you an example, one of the things I see happening with our people in terms of education—we see our young people going away to college or university. There seems to be a problem there with the post-secondary students dropping out. I think this needs to be addressed. These are the best students we have and we need to ask, "Why is this happening?" We need to address that question with the students directly. Once we know what is happening then we can meet their needs.

There was a report given by the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs at Parliament. It was entitled *The Sharing of Knowledge—The Path to Success and Equal Opportunity in Education*. This report was in 1996 and it stated that, concerning

dropouts in post-secondary education, Trent University had developed a way of dealing with the Native students. They have included in their programs provision for counselling, access to Elders, an inclusion of Aboriginal thought within the university. This in the curriculum as well as having traditional people as faculty members.

I don't know, maybe the Board could approach such institutions as Trent to see what could be done for Cree students who are going away to school from their home communities.

The students in Montreal protested over the proposed move to the Lamborghini Building. How did you feel about that personally?

Well, I wasn't sure what was really going to happen. To be quite honest, I didn't know what to expect. At that time we were in the middle of a transitional period. We were getting a new Commissioner sworn in from Mistissini and the former Chairman was leaving his post, so we were like a ship without a captain or a ship without a rudder. With that, it was uncertain what could or would really happen, what the outcome would be. I think a lot of people were unsure of what would happen. Probably a lot of people didn't know how to react or what to expect.

I know that some students were complaining that they got a cold shoulder from the Commissioners. Do you feel some of the reasons that you just outlined were part of that reason?

You're saying the students thought we gave them the cold shoulder?

Yes.

Okay, I think some of those feelings might have been that the Commissioners were having to deal with the uncertainty. There was that break in the leadership. There wasn't anyone designated to handle the situation with the students. Nobody was approached other than myself. I went to meet the students outside the meeting hall when they came into the building. There was a lot of uncertainty with what could develop over that action. Any kind of confrontation is always uncertain in what direction it is going to go. I think it was more being cautious than a cold shoulder. How were we going to deal with them? What were we going to say to them? What can you say at that point to make them feel that we are all on the same side here?

We're just trying to do our jobs and the decision had been taken that we are going to go with that. But I don't think it was intentional that they should feel they got the cold shoulder. It was more of a lack of hindsight on our part. We should have had a plan to deal with them when they came instead of just a reaction to the situation. This is perhaps how they came to feel like that.

What do you see as the immediate needs of the communities?

One of the things I feel is a priority with the CSB is the renovation of the school in Wemindji. This is something that has been on the discussion table since Luke's Chairmanship. We had thought that everything had been worked out to the Minister of Education's satisfaction and we were going to get it. But now it's time to deal and talk with the Minister on this as a urgent matter to see if it can be resolved in the shortest time possible. I feel this is a priority for the Board.

Another matter that comes to mind is the CSB court case that we have launched against the governments. The CSB is in court seeking a declamatory judgement on the meaning of section 16.0.23 of the JBNQA. (*note: the section reads: "Funding to the Cree School Board will be provided according to a formula. The formula will be determined by the Quebec Department of Education, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Crees."*) From the section it is clear that this is supposed to be a trilateral process with Cree participation. Right now the Quebec and federal governments are trying to decide the CSB's funding without Crees involvement or participation. We are in court to clarify that so the CSB can negotiate its own budget.

Our current budget runs out in 1998. Right now we should be preparing a team to deal with that but at the moment we are more preoccupied with the outcome of that court case.

When will you be looking at a judgement on this case?

I can't really answer that. It might be in June or September of next year but court cases sometimes have a life of their own.

There are other issues that the CSB is looking at also. There are

Cont'd on page 25

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other things that are on my mind and are being discussed by the Council of Commissioners as well the director-general. We've talked about the idea of having an Education Conference. This would be sometime in the New Year. It would deal with different matters. We haven't decided or defined the agenda as such. We are probably going to include the revisions that we have done to the Cree Education Act. As you know, that is an on-going thing. We'll probably incorporate the Cree language and culture programs into that. That is something I feel quite strong about, the Cree language programs. Where they are at and if there is anyplace where we could improve on that.

As you know, the CSB and *The Nation* have finalised a contract to produce a newsletter on a quarterly basis. It'll deal with all facets of education and this will be interesting to the readers because it will be informative and communicate ideas to them. We want to increase our efforts in communicating. Not only through written material but also through public presentations to the Cree people and through radio programs as well. Possibly television too. We've already recruited somebody who speaks very fluently in Cree. Everybody knows him and has heard him on the radio—Gaston Cooper. He's going to be involved in producing a radio program on what's happening at the Board level with education.

I know you were in Waskaganish as an interested observer when the Native Women's Association first started looking at daycares for the communities. Will the Cree School Board be taking them under its wing?

I'm not aware of any plans. These are programs that are funded through the Federal and Quebec governments. We are willing to work with the people involved in daycare. The agencies involved have just completed a tour of Eeyou Astchee. They're looking at the present services and what needs development. A report and recommendations on that will be released later.

How about an after school program where you would watch kids. I understand there are grants for this. Will the CSB working on this to help out working parents?

There are existing after-school programs. These range from helping students who are having difficulty to assisting the student, one on one, after school. There's also sports but this is done on a voluntary basis. The question you asked though has never been requested of the CSB to my knowledge.

The CSB recently installed a computer network. Will this be available to other people in the communities?

I know the schools will be connected. I don't know what the focus will be in getting other people to use it. To start some sort of networking. I imagine that might be the direction some people will want to go. These days you hear so much about the Internet where everybody is connected on these different networks, so I imagine there will be a discussion on that where interested parties form a working group.

Do you have an update on the collective agreement negotiations. How is this going?

From what I hear the negotiations have been going extremely well. There have been some very positive discussions. I believe if things continue as they have been going we will have a settlement sometime in the new year.

Though the CSB is one of the smallest in Quebec, it has one of the highest firing rates according to a former employee. Would you have an idea why this might be?

Firing rate. Could you be more specific as to why these people were fired? What prompted the Board to fire these people?

I wouldn't know why. It's not something that we've investigated fully.

I'm at a loss of words here.

How about the problems with replacing some problem teachers because of the collective agreement— teachers involved in alleged sexual misconduct or who have allegedly racist attitudes. Will you be or have you modified the CSB's screening process?

Your previous question. I think that the question you are asking now may be tied into that. I know there have been some cases that have come up before the Board. We have dismissed teachers based on information they have tried to pass to the Board that was false.

Cont'd on page 27

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ERRATUM

In last week's issue,
The phone number listed
for WACHIYA was incorrect.
The correct phone number is
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Good Luck

To all the broomball and hockey teams parcipating in the Cree Nation Invitational Tournament this year.
Sports events like this promote individual and team achievements as well as a healthy lifestyle through exercise.
By your actions you are now among the role models of the Cree Nation.
Once again Good Luck in your endeavours.

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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It was not correct. Maybe they didn't possess the papers. There have been cases where teachers have been dismissed for actions that they may have committed—aggressive actions that they may have taken against students in a particular situation. Allegations of sexual misconduct have also come up.

In terms of schools and screening today, teacher selection is a local matter and the interviews are done through the parents' committee. The selection process is then recommended to be done by the executive committee. The local personnel as well as the parents' committee are responsible for screening as well as checking references of the applicants.

The Board over time has improved its screening process. Three years ago the executive committee undertook new procedures that have been implemented in response to difficulties incurred by poor screening and people who slipped through the cracks. These are applied right now across the board through the personnel services of the CSB. References that are given by candidates are checked. There are three asked for. As well there is a list of 18 items we go through and need verification on for each candidate. So I think they are very stringent and I feel we have worked on that and we are constantly improving it.

It is true that in the past we've faced various grievances concerning screening and selection techniques, but at the same time we've taken necessary actions to dismiss teachers who've provided false declaration. We've taken consistent action and expended great amounts of energy to deal with this, and I hope that it will minimise future difficulties in the selection of teachers.

What have you done or undertaken since you started? These are short one-year terms so a person in your position must work hard and fast to accomplish something. So the question is what have you done?

The role of Chair of the CSB is a very important function. Having been given the confidence of the Council of Commissioners, I come to this job with ideas, with a vision of what we could do. Right now my main task has been to orient myself in the job. To familiarise myself with some of the work that has been undertaken by the previous chairpeople. Basically to understand how the CSB functions.

After all not everyone comes to a job knowing exactly what is expected of them. It's been a learning process for me and I learning as I'm going along. I hope I can build on the successes and past achievements of my predecessors in the position as Chair of the Board. It has been well-represented in the past by such people as Billy Diamond, whose focus was on creating a Cree education system. Kenny Blackned's accomplishments in bringing home education and dealing with the finances of the CSB. As well, Paul's and Luke's terms in their efforts to have concrete plans to improve the quality of education and they have done a lot for the board.

In the coming year, I know the CSB faces issues and new challenges that I will have to face as my predecessors faced theirs. We have a school to renovate in Wemindji as well as the legal action I talked with you on. This could have an impact on the financial picture of the CSB in the future. As well, the CSB is faced with a new protocol in education and language. I hope I can use the examples of the previous Chairs with my fellow Commissioners in building the education system for the future. I think the Cree people can be proud of their last Chairmen and their accomplishments. I know we will move forward as a result of those efforts of those who went before us. We all work and have worked for the well-being and the future of the Cree Nation.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

If I was to say a few words in closing I really feel that it's important that people realise that the CSB is like somebody told me, "The Board is like a big boat that's setting off into uncharted waters. The boat has its own radar and navigation instruments—the navigation instruments being the information of our students." I think in order to get where want to go, we need to understand what's going on internally with the schools, the administration, the staff. I would like to see regular reports from the different departments and committees regarding successes and failures in doing the job of educating our students.

I know as a parent, and I think a lot of parents would agree, the school is a place where a lot of our students go and they feel it. School is a place that holds their emotional system and psychological safety as the highest priority. I think we need to ensure that, and we have that responsibility as parents and educators to provide the best services that we can.

One of the things I would like to address as Chairman of the Board is this safe school policy. The Board has adopted a policy where we want to ensure that the schools we are operating are run in a manner that is consistent with the well-being of the child. We understand and know there are problems we encounter in our schools. The focus and energy we want to direct to the safe school policy is so the children feel they are going someplace they'll be well taken care of.

I think the Board has that responsibility to the parents. To ensure that we are taking care of the children and we are looking after the needs of the child. We are ensuring them the best education possible under the circumstances that we have to live with, considering the remoteness and isolation of the North. I know we have good teachers and I know we have good staff. I think we have to work on building that confidence in people and giving them the confidence we are doing the best that we can.

Good luck in your position and in case I don't talk to sooner, Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to you and the family.

Merry Christmas to you too.

I would like to wish each and every one of your readers a joyous celebration of peace, harmony and goodwill for this Christmas season that is upon us. For the time we spend with our children and families may you all have a Merry Christmas and a happy prosperous New Year.

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

CANADA

Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Meilleurs voeux de la part du ministre Ronald A. Irwin

Je désire vous transmettre à tous mes meilleurs voeux de santé et de bonheur pour Noel et le Nouvel An. Cette période particulière nous donne l'occasion de nous pencher sur l'année écoulée et de songer aux changements souhaités pour la nouvelle année. Pour ma part, je sais que je me souviendrai avec fierté des progrès auxquels les peuples autochtones, la population du Nord et le gouvernement du Canada ont participé ensemble en 1996. Je suis certain que ces succès se poursuivront en 1997.

Cette année, des développements importants se sont produits dans notre partenariat avec les peuples autochtones et les gens du Nord, partenariat qui est en constante évolution. Par exemple, le gouvernement du Canada a proclamé le 21 juin "Journée nationale des Autochtones", donnant ainsi aux Canadiens une occasion spéciale de célébrer les réalisations des peuples autochtones et leurs contributions à l'édification de notre pays. Dans des communautés un peu partout au pays, les gens se sont réunis pour partager et reconnaître les traditions et les riches cultures des Premières nations, des Métis et des Inuits.

Au cours de l'été, nous avons augmenté notre financement au logement dans les réserves d'au moins 140 millions de dollars pour les cinq prochaines années. Nous avons également alloué un montant supplémentaire de 98,5 millions de dollars pour accélérer la réfection des systèmes d'égouts et d'approvisionnement en eau et pour en construire de nouveaux dans les collectivités des Premières nations, et ainsi assurer des collectivités modernes, plus saines et plus susceptibles de bien préparer leurs membres pour l'avenir.

Le gouvernement fédéral s'est engagé à aider les Autochones à entreprendre des carrières fructueuses et à bâtir de solides entreprises commerciales. C'est pourquoi nous avons dévoilé cette année trois nouveaux programmes d'éducation et de formation professionnelle pour les jeunes autochones. Nous avons également adopté une stratégie destinée à faciliter l'accès des entrprises autochtones aux contrats du gouvernement fédéral. En élargissant nos pratiques de passation de marchés, nous tirons parti des capacités des quelque 18 000 entreprises possédées et gérées par des Auotochones, l'un des groupes d'entreprises les plus énerigiques au pays.

Depuis qu'il a annoncé notre politique sur le droit inhérent à l'autonomie gouvernementale, le gouvernement que je représente a participé à plus de 86 tables de négociation représentant 375 Premières nations. Le règlement des revendications territoriales constitue également une priorité pour nous, et depuis les dernières élections, nous avons négocié 58 revendications particulières et relatives aux droits fonciers découlant des traités, ainsi que cinq revendication globales. L'entente de principe que nous avons conclue cette année avec les Nisga'as et avec le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique est un événement historique, car elle conduira au premier traité moderne pour la Colombie-Britannique.

Dans le Nord, des progrès importants ont eu lieu; ils permettront de sauvegarder à la fois l'environnement précieux de cette région et les mesures de dévoloppement économique difficilement obtenues. Le projet de mine de diamants de la BHP approche de sa réalisation, et toutes les dispositions réglementaires ont été prises pour assurer que le Nord en retire des avantages considérables, notamment en termes d'emplois et d'investissements. De plus, le projet de loi C-6 a établi la première loi moderne de protection de l'environnement en ce qui a trait à l'exploitation minière au Yukon.

Les progrès que nous avons réalisés ensemble cette année sur tous les fronts méritent d'être célébrés. Je vous invite à partager ma résolution d'en faire encore beaucoup plus en 1997.

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

CANADA

Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Season's Greetings From Minister Ronald A. Irwin

I would like to wish all of you a happy, healthy holiday season. This special time allows us to reflect on the past year and dream of change for the next. I know I will look back with pride on the positive developments that Aboriginal peoples, northerners, and the Government of Canada achieved toghether in 1996. I am certain those successes will continue in 1997.

This year saw important new developments in our ever-evolving partnership with Aboriginal peoples and northerners. For example, the Government of Canada declared June 21 as National Aboriginal Day, giving Canadians a special day to celebrate Aboriginal peoples' achievements and contributions to this country. In communities across the country, people came together to share and recognize the traditions and great cultures of First Nations, Métis people, and Inuit.

In the summer we increased our funding for on-reserve housing for the next five years by a minimum of $140 million. We also allocated an extra $98.5 million to speed up repairs and new construction of water and sewer systems in First Nations communities, thereby ensuring healthier, modernized communities that are better able to prepare their members for the future.

The federal government is committed to helping Aboriginal peoples create successful careers and businesses for themselves. That's why we unveiled three new educational and career programs for Aboriginal youth this year. We also launched a strategy to help Aboriginal firms gain easier access to Federal Government Contracts. By opening up our procurement practices, we are tapping into the 18,000 or so Aboriginally owned and operated businesses, one of the most energetic groups of businesses in the country.

Since announcing our policy on the inherent right of self-government, this government has sat down at more than 86 negotiating tables representing 375 First Nations. Achieving land claims settlements is also a key priority for us, and since the last election, we have negotiated 58 specific and treaty land entitlement claims and five comprehensive claims. Our agreement-in-principle with the Nisga'a people and British Columbia goverment this year is particularly historic, as it will lead to British Columbia's first modern-day treaty.

In the North, important developments have taken place that will safeguard both the North's precious environment and its hard-won efforts for economic development. The proposed BHP diamond mine comes close to being a reality and all the regulatory processes are in place to ensure that the North realizes significant benefits, such as jobs and investment. Moreover, Bill legislation in relation to mining in the Yukon.

The progress we have made together this year on all fronts is cause for celebration. Please join me in resolving to accomplish much more in 1997.

Maquatua inn

With our new expansion of
28 rooms for your comfort
and pleasure!

BEST WISHES
this Holiday Season
to the Cree Nation
from everyone at Maquatua Inn!

Right in the heart of downtown Wemindji.

PHONE: (819) 978-3166/3167
FAX: (819) 978-3196
We accept Visa, Mastercard, debit cards, purchase orders.

Tawich
Development Corporation

Helping entrepreneurs in Wemindji throughout the holiday season!

Wishing you the best of success this Christmas 1996.

Merry Christmas '96 to all the Cree Communities

From the entire staff of the Cree Nation of Eastmain

CREE NATION OF EASTMAIN

Sandy's Corner Store would like to wish everyone in the Cree Nation a wonderful Christmas 1996.

SANDY'S CORNER STORE —*Native Business Working for the Future of Native People and Our Community.*
"Let's Do It — Together"
Phone: 819-929-3508 Fax: 819-929-3218

DEDICATION

My husband... Love of my life

My husband's birthday is coming up soon so I thought I'd do something different for him this year. I don't think people really know him even though he is a public person. He's the fire chief and the director of public safety for our community.

I met my husband in April 1973 and through some divine intervention we were married on December 22, 1973. Our marriage has been like every other marriage with our share of life's ups and downs. I don't think we'd be married today had it not been for the Lord changing our lives. Our marriage has been blessed with four daughters, Faith Maryann (18), Mary Magdalene (17), Charity Dawn (16), Ginette Chantal Hope (14) and our one and only son, Jonathan Benjamin Matthew (11). We would've had another daughter, Gloria Celestina, who would've been 20 this past September. She died when she was four months old. We still miss her very much.

I accepted Jesus as my Lord and personal Saviour at the end of that same year that He took her home. For my husband, it took a little longer but I patiently waited and prayed for him to do the same. Matthew has been a good husband to me and a good father to our children. My husband's not perfect and he probably never will be. He has his faults but who doesn't and he makes mistakes just like the rest of us but I'm proud to call him my husband... Love of my life.

The one thing I admire most about him is that he is always willing to share his faith in God to whoever will listen. He's never kept his God to himself. To those of you who know him, you'll know this to be true. God has been faithful to him despite all his failures and shortcomings because He sees in his heart that he wants to reach out and help people so he's opening doors for him to broaden his vision in reaching people. He'll be going to Russia in November once again to share his faith in God to those who are spiritually poor... to encourage those who are being persecuted for their faith in God.

My prayer for him is for God to continue to use him and to bless and keep him in the palm of His mighty hand as he obeys the Word of God which commands us to "go into all the world and preach the good news to the poor."

To my husband and the father of my children... I want to tell that I love you and appreciate you for everything that you have done to make life easier and happier for all of us. Please, forgive us for failing to see you as God sees you. Forgive the wrong words that we have spoken that hurt you and the wrong we have done to you and accept our love and appreciation for you... on this, your special day... your birthday.

Happy Birthday!

From your wife, Harriet

Your daughters, Faith, Mary, Charity, Hope and your favourite son, Jonathan

CONTEST

"Help us Find a Logo"

Les Industries Mist-Terr Inc.

This new construction company is involved in the building and maintenance of roads, deforestation, heavy equipment transportation, the production of crushed gravel, etc. The aim of this partnership between natives and non-natives (50%-50%) is the development of both communities.

This enterprise is an association of three construction related companies. They are:

Mistco Ventures Inc. (Mistissini Lake)
Les Constructions Ex-Terr Inc. (Chibougamau)
Les Agregats CCM Inc. (Chibougamau)

How to participate:

- The contest is open to all region 10 residents, young and old.
- The suggested logo must be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper or cardboard along with a written description.
- The person with the winning logo will receive a prize of $500.

THIS CONTEST ENDS DECEMBER 31ST 1996.

Send your entries in a sealed envelope to the address below:

Concours "Aider-Nous à Trouver Un Logo"
Les Industries Mist-Terr Inc.
982, boulevard Hamel
Chibougamau (Québec)
G8P 2Z8

Bijouterie L'orfèvrerie Enr.

Diamond Rings 10KT gold from $129

Precious Stone and Diamond Rings
10KT gold from $138

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Brand Name Watches
SEIKO - ESQ. - FIORI - TIMEX
WNGERS - VALIMA

Place le Chaînon
Chibougamau 748-7301

Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge

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Because the good will
of those we serve is the foundation of our success.
It's a real pleasure at this holiday time,
to say "Thank You" as we wish you
a very Merry Christmas and
prosperous New Year,
from everyone at the Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge.

"Distinguished Elegance...Affordable Charm"

AUBERGE KANIO KASHEE LODGE
PO Box 360 Waskaganish, Qc, J0M 1R0
Phone: 819-895-2005
Fax: 819-895-2008

Dining and Conference facilities available

WISHING
ALL OF
THE CREE NATIONS
A MERRY, MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

Peace and Love to all!

From Chief William Mianscum, Council, Staff, Elders & Members

187 Main St.
Mistissini, Qc.
G0W 1C0
Phone: 418.923.3461
Fax: 418.923.3115

Eastmain Grocery Store
would like to wish
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our customers!

Have a Great Holiday!

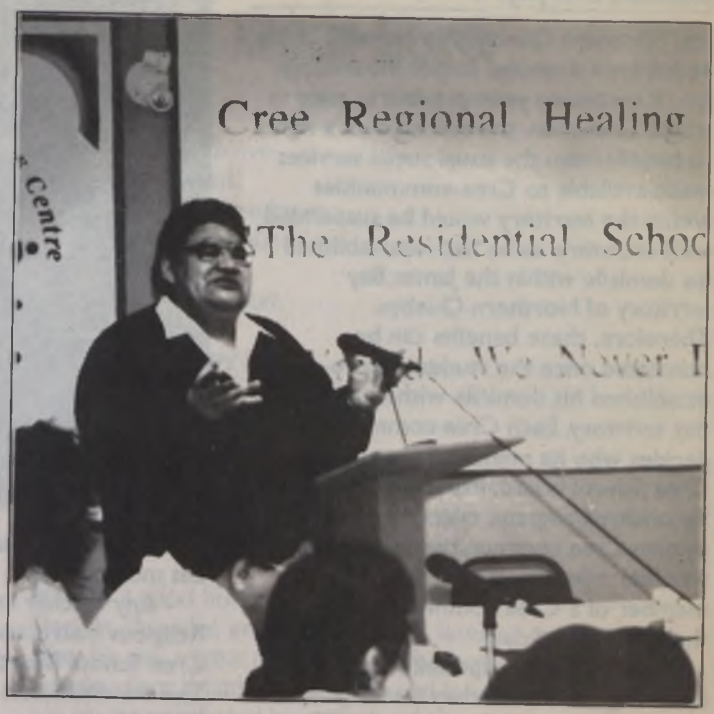
Eastmain Grocery Store, P.O. Box 70, Eastmain, Que. J0M 1W0
Phone: 819-977-0285 Fax: 819-977-0364

HOURS:
WEEKDAYS: 9 am to 8 pm
SATURDAYS: 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm

Former Deputy Grand Chief Romeo Saganash was invited by Hydro-Quebec to make a speech on the annivesary of the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The following are excerpts from his speech.

On Robert Bourassa:

"... I believe the Cree People should be thankful to Late Robert Bourassa. If it hadn't been for his 'Project of the Century,' I always wonder where the Cree People would be today. Surely, if it hadn't been for his dream, the story of Northern Quebec would have remained that of the Cree People on Eenou Astchee. If it hadn't been for his challenge of Cree rights on the Cree territory, would the Cree People be as united as they are today? This is not to say that politics and diplomacy were non-existent in the Cree world prior to meeting the man and the faith he reserved for the remote territories of Northern Quebec. No. Except that the adventure he pursued was singularly unsettling to a point that the Crees had to respond with equal strength. The Bourassean challenge had to be met with courage and a visionary perspective of the future of the Cree Nation, and that, the Cree leadership achieved with honour and distinction despite all. The Grand Council of the Crees is an organization to be reckoned with and it will remain as such; it is there partly because of Bourassa and his numerous political assaults on Cree rights, Cree territory and the Cree People. Bourassa literally took the Crees, with or without their consent, to the doors of the 21st century."



On Chief Billy Diamond:

"In Cree history, the early 1970s belong mainly to two men: Late Robert Bourassa and Chief Billy Diamond. Many things have been said about both men over the last 20 years, and an equal number of opinions have been expressed about the document that stemmed from their respective claims over the North: the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Those who claim that Chief Diamond is the Lee Iaccoca of the North are not quite right. Rather, the American figure who comes to mind instantly whenever I watch and listen to Billy Diamond is Henry Kissinger. Powerful, highly intelligent and among the very few aboriginal leaders I know with some vision for the future of their peoples. Placed in equal circumstances as in the early '70s, no Cree—yesterday or today—could have equalled or surpassed what Chief Billy Diamond achieved for his people. He had not reached the age of 25 when he first became Chief and negotiator back then, and in his mid-40s today, one must recognize that it's not over."

Podium sports

Yvan and his team would like to take this opportunity to wish their loyal customers SEASON'S GREETINGS and to drive carefully during the holidays.

434, 3e rue, Chibougamau
418-748-4243

Yvan du Sport
Chibougamau

continued from page 6

and Northern Quebec Agreement) *unless he has been domiciled outside the territory for 10 continuous years previous to going to school.* Even then, the said student's rights to benefit from the usual social services made available to Cree communities within the territory would be suspended until such time as he has re-established his domicile within the James Bay territory of Northern Quebec. Therefore, these benefits can be reinstated once the student has re-established his domicile within the James Bay territory. Each Cree community decides who its members are and the Cree School Board, especially the Post Secondary Program, takes its cues from all nine Cree communities in deciding whether a person is a recognized member of a Cree community and thereby a beneficiary.

Cree students, especially those attending post-secondary institutions in the south, are not affected by the Ten Year clause while they are in school even if their studies might take 10 years as is the case for a medical student whose program may span a 10-year period. So contrary to Mr. Justice Paul's comment about the medical student, *he will not lose his beneficiary status as long as he is registered and actively pursuing his studies at a recognized post-secondary institution.* The student is not penalized for years of study and absence from the community. It is only when a Cree student, or any other Cree for that matter, decides to establish his domicile in the south that the Ten Year clause comes into effect.

I hope the above clarifies any questions that a Cree student presently sponsored by the Cree School Board's Post Secondary Program may have. If you have any concerns as a student about your beneficiary status and the benefits you are entitled to, you should contact your individual bands or the Post Secondary Program's office in Montreal.

Kathleen Wooton, Coordinator,
Post Secondary Program
Cree School Board

Bad feelings fuelled

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am writing in response to the letter published in Vol. 3, No. 18, August 2, 1996, about a teacher at Maquatua Eeyou School, Wemindji.

There has been considerable damage as a result of this anonymous publication. Let me be specific:

- Any teacher knows Moral and Religious Instruction are indicated by the Cree School Board as mandatory classes. This information is widely publicized and should be common knowledge.
- No teacher at M.E.S. has a classroom that resembles that of a Sunday School.
- No one should be singled out for his/her sex or race.
- I have been wrongfully accused on numerous occasions of having written this letter, based on hearsay, and my reputation has been jeopardized as a result.
- Letters of this nature fuel bad feelings in both school and community, and contribute towards religious intolerance as well as gossip-mongering.

Let me end by saying it is unfortunate that letters of this nature are written and doubly so that you publish them indiscriminately. Regardless of your recent note indicating people should sign their contributions for legal reasons, your judgement should have enabled you to avoid this situation.

Charlotte Henay
Teacher, Maquatua Eeyou School

Where is hydro subsidy?

Letter to *The Nation*:

This is regarding the hydro subsidy given to Waswanipi members who have houses in the reserve of Waswanipi as well as members living off the reserve.

Perhaps as you all are aware, only a small portion of your subsidy was issued to you ($450.00) when the amount was to be $1,300.00. I believe $850.00 was used to pay the band bills and that is the reason for not getting the full amount. Some band members are sitting in their homes, whose hydro power was discontinued by Hydro-Quebec for not paying their bills. One of them is my uncle. I didn't know why the chief would do such a thing as that. I intend to look into this matter further in the coming weeks. I am very concerned for my uncle whose power was cut off. As you all know, he has a heart problem.

Another thing I wish to bring to your attention is the court conviction of the chief for drunken driving. It is a bad example to our youth and to the community of Waswanipi. Our leaders should be setting the example. I believe for this court conviction he should resign or be removed from office. I will work on this matter with legal counsel, whose expertise is on the Cree/Naskapi Act.

Any band member dissatisfied or disapproving of the way the chief handles our affairs is requested to write stating their grievances in English or Cree.

In January 1997, at the next general meeting, the removal of the chief will be on the agenda. I intend to be there at this meeting. Hopefully I will have all the information that I need to have at this meeting. Any individual with expertise who wants to work with me on this matter should contact me. You can remain in total confidentiality.

I requested for a meeting with the chief in Senneterre, Quebec, which he did not reply. So I have no other choice but to take this route.

All correspondence should be given to my mother in Waswanipi, which will be sent to me in Senneterre, Quebec.

Billy Ottereyes
Waswanipi Band Member
Former Chief

POETRY

To a special boy with special needs

Michael Cheezo -- my precious grandson

You are the child of my child,
You are the light of my child,
You are the life of my child,
You are the precious child of my child.

When you were born, I was there for you,
When you were crying, I was there for you,
When you were away, I was there for you,
When you were home, I was there for you.

You are the child that brings joy into my heart,
You are the child that lights up my life,
You are the child that brings happiness into my heart,
You are the child that I treasure in my life.

Child of my child, I love you as my own,
Child of my child, you are one of my own,
Child of my child, you are my little precious one,
Child of my child, you are my little love one.

Love always, your grandma
Florence Cheezo

A child again

As a child I thought that the world
was a perfect place to be. As I grew older
I found out that the world can be so tough.
Today as I sit here thinking back to childhood
days when everything seemed so perfect and I'm wishing
that I could go back to being a child again and have
someone warn me that along life's path for the years
ahead of me that there is going to be some tough
struggles that I think I just can't handle.
Why couldn't they just say that
"Life wouldn't be easy"

Serenity

Search for serenity
The search is yours and mine
Each finds his way with help,
But yet alone
Serenity is the goal.

It comes to those who learn to wait
And grow;
For each can learn to understand himself
And say, "I've found a
Joy in being I,
And knowing you,
A knowledge of the depths I can descend,
A chance to climb the heights above my head."

The way is not so easy all the time.
Our feet will stumble often as we go.
A friend may need to give some extra help,
As we once gave to others
When in the hour of fear,
This is no picnic path that we have found;
But yet compared to other days
And other times,
It seems a better route.

Judy Capissisit

IN MEMORY

Dear Lord

You are with me
Through you I survive
Without you I sink
You carry my broken heart
I need you every hour
Jesus Christ
Thank You for comfort.

In Memory of my Dad,
Jossie Gunner

He was a good father,
Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather.
He had 25 Grandchildren,
And 11 Great-Grandchildren.

He was a good hunter,
Trapper, Provider, and Support to his family.
Also, he was a great teacher to his five sons.
(Morley, Sam, Matthew, Norman and Johnny)
He always comforted his only daughter
(Louise) when she was sad.
He was a good counsellor to his only
son-in-law. (Edward)

He was a good brother to his four younger
brothers. (Jimmy, Charlo, Charlie and Isaac)
He was a big brother to his three golden
girls (sisters). Charlotte, Luce and Elizabeth.
Most of all, he was a good friend to
all who knew him.

He was a very special
Father to me.
So he went home with
the Lord.
It really hurts when you
lose someone you love so much.

Dedicated to my late father, Jossie Gunner.

From his only daughter, Louise (Gunner) Rabbitskin.

more poetry and memories on p. 36 and 37.

For a special Grandson Curtis LeeRoy Oliver Born September 10, 1995

Rules from Grandma Rosie
1. Don't go near the garbage can
2. Don't play with anything, it is not a toy
3. Don't throw your food on the floor
4. Don't put anything in your mouth
5. Don't take the pots and pans out of the cupboard
6. Don't get the floor all wet when you take a bath
7. Don't put your bowl on top of your head, it is not a hat
8. Don't go near the toilet bowl
9. Don't open the drawers, leave them alone

Reminders from Grandma Rosie
1. Don't forget to take you vitamins every day
2. Don't forget to drink lots of milk, for strong bones and healthy teeth
3. Don't forget to eat your vegetables, they are good for you
4. Don't forget your visits to the Doctor's office or Dentist
5. Don't forget to exercise, walking is good
6. Don't forget your bed-time prayers
7. Don't forget to thank the good Lord for blessing you with a Grandma like me who loves you very much, thinks you are special and I wouldn't trade you for somebody else. Oh! I almost forgot, do take your nap every afternoon, because I am very exhausted when I take care of you. I need my Zzzzzz's too.

New

New school. New classes
New teachers. New books
New classmates. New friends
New nervousness. New fears
New joys. New sorrows. New place.
New. And they said we never tried anything new.

Fr: College students, Mtl.
(written by Was. student)

A family garden

Each and every one of us has a family garden.
A family garden is your very own garden.
You'll see that your garden grows the way you want it to grow.
You'll see that it's a special garden.
Compared to a garden that you see flowers,
No, this one is special because it grew out of you.
That's why it's so special.

This family garden that you have you see it every day.
You see it each season, an all-year-round garden.
It shows you that it doesn't need all the watering, compared to a flower.
All it needs is your love and affection,
Your kindness and a hug once in a while.
Your integrity and his dignity.

A family garden needs you to protect it all the time.
It needs your support each day as it faces a new day.
It needs to hear you say these words: "I love you."

For this special garden is filled with laughter and joy.
You see smiling faces that tell you:
"I'm happy to be growing in this garden."

Give all the love it needs because that's the only thing it needs.
The way you want it to grow, that has love, kindness and respect.

A family garden goes on from generation to generation.
A family garden as special as this one is cherished for life.

A garden filled with children is God's greatest gift of all.

by S. Moses-Gilpin
Eastmain, Que.

Coming On CBC TV
Maamuitaau

December 21 and 22
The spirit of Christmas is captured when **Maamuitaau** presents a Yultide special.

Join CBC North - Quebec's television team as they visit the Cree community of Moose Factory where the residents share their musical talents and warm friendship.

From the toe-tapping tunes on the fiddle to the strums of the guitar, residents help celebrate the Christmas season in both song and orchestral.

A special feature includes Christmas messages from Cree residents to friends and relatives.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

Saturdays	06:28	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

CBC North

In Loving Memory of
Clara Neeposh Trapper
Feb. 10, 1903 - Aug. 30, 1996

Kookum was getting old and tired. God saw her and called her home. She was 93 years old when she left this world.

Looking back the years she had lived with us, we can say that she was a good mother, friend and a grandmother. She has helped us in many ways, such as using her own traditional medicine, to heal us when we were sick. Kookum was also a mid-wife. Up to this day, no one knows how many babies she delivered. I guess we can only say that two hard-working hands are at rest now.

Kookum, we will miss you and we will always cherish you and the years we lived together. You will always be someone special in our hearts.

From your grandchildren: Annie, Dorothy, Lillian, Kenny & Albert

---

In Loving Memory of Leonard John Trapper
Born November 24, 1974
Died May 4, 1995

We can't find the words to say, what lies within our hearts,
It is a year ago today, that our world was torn apart.
Life went on and so did we, with the strength we learned from you.

Thanks for the years you gave us, the good times we shared.
They say time heals all sorrow, and helps us to forget. But time so far has only proved how much we miss you.

As time goes on without you, they hold a million memories, and a thousand silent tears.
The face we love is missing, the voice we love is still,
A place is vacant in our hearts that no one will ever fill.

To us, you were so special, what more is there to say except to wish with our hearts that you were here today.
You are forever missed sadly by your family, brothers, sisters and friends.

by Caroline Jimiken

In loving memory of a dear nephew and grandson Leonard John Trapper who passed away on May 4, 1995.

We do not need a special day
To bring you to our minds
The days we do not think of you
Are very hard to find
We watched you fade away
You fought so hard to stay
God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be found
So He closed His arms around you
And called you home to suffer no more

We watched as you took your last breath
Your heart stopped beating
Your gentle hands at rest
Sleeping so peacefully free from pain
We could not wish you back to suffer that again

When we look back, as we often do
We cherish the memories we have of you
Gone are the days we used to share
But in our hearts you are always there

Remembering you is easy
We do it every day
Missing you is the heartache
That never goes away
No one knows our heartaches
Only those who have lost their loved ones can tell
Of the grief that we bear in silence
For the one we loved so well

Time may heal the broken heart
Time may make the wound less sore
But time can never stop the longing
For the loved one gone before
Silent tears still flow
For what it meant to lose you

Deep in our hearts your memory is kept
We loved you too dearly to ever forget
Though on earth you are no more
Still in memory you are with us
As you always were before

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by your aunt Sally and Grandma Jane (Goo-Goo Jen).

REST AND RELAX!

Let AIR CREEBEC bring you home safely and swiftly.

1-800-567-6567

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to Stella Masty and Keith Bearskin on the birth of their son Keith Dakota, born October 15, 96. It must be great to have a son after having Eliza Faith. From friends and family in Whapmagoostui.

Congratulations to Elaine Moses who gave birth to a baby girl Adrianna Roxanne Wanda Moses Erless on October 30th in Val d' Or. She must be a great bundle of joy. From a friend who lives next door.

Congratulations to Annie Karen Snowboy. She gave birth to a healthy big baby boy, weighing in at 9 lbs., 12 oz. Born on October 16, 1996 in Val d' Or. Austin Jesse James is an addition to grandchildren of Abraham and Emily Snowboy. Congratulations again to you. From Dina in Chisasibi.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Francis S. I hope you had fun on your birthday on November 9 because you deserve it. You are like a sister to me and there is no one in this world who could never take your place or be like you. Happy birthday from Rachel B.

Happy belated 14th birthday to our daughter and sister Amy (September 12) We thank God for this birthday. May he bless you with many more to come. With love and prayers, mom, dad and brothers (Waskaganish)

Happy birthday to our uncle Raymond on October 11 and to our aunt Rita on October 10 and also a happy 1st birthday to our cousin Roland. on October 15. With all our love, Amy, Willy, Wally and Dwight.

A belated birthday wish to Albert Gilpin (Alba) from Eastmain whose birthday was on October 5th. Love and kisses from Gookoom and Goomshoom Snow boy and aunts and uncle and your cousin Austin. (AJ)

Wishing a happy birthday to cousin Katrina Gilpin from Eastmain who will be celebrating her 9th birthday on November 25th. Since your birthday is a month away from Christmas did you start your list of "I want this for Christmas" for Santa. Better get in early. I hear Santa is always busy. From your cousin Austin Jesse (AJay) in Chisasibi.

Happy belated birthday to my one and only sister Philomene Swallow on September 11. 96. Hope you had a good tome and many ore to come. Love you always, from sis in Nemaska Sherrie Cheezo.

Happy belated 4th birthday to my daughter Courtney Cheezo on September 21, 1996. I hope you had fun on your special day and many more to come. I hope you'll come and stay with us soon. We miss you. Love always, mom Sherri.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to Sam Cheezo on November 2, 1996. May your day be as special as you are and many more to come. From friend always, Sherri (Nemaska)

From William Nichols. Happy belated birthday to my neice Elizabeth and my son Eric. All my love.

Wishing a happy 2nd birthday to our little boy Adrian Hester on October 21, 96. A little boy to hold and cuddle brings a lot of joy. Happy 2nd birthday Adrian, we love you very much. xoxoxoxox. From mom and dad, Mary and Clifford Hester (Wask)

Happy second birthday to my little brother Adrian Titus Hester on October 21, 1996. It sees like only yesterday that you were born. I still remember that day, it was a very special day for me. I was so happy to hear that I had a little brother. Happy second birthday little bro. Including these three words, I love you. xoxoxoxoxoxo. From our one and only sister, Geraldine Hester. (Wask.)

To my handsome son Nelson who'll turn 15?! on November 30. A very happy birthday wish 2 U and we will make it a special day 4 U, I guarantee! Remember, I love you so! Take care my son. Love, mom. xoxoxoxo.

A special birthday message to a very special person in my 18 months of life who have made the most wonderful and happy. And who has given me lots of extra special attention. Don't worry, I'm not going to go spoiled and rotten on you. I just want to say I adore you and lots of sweet kisses to you, my mom, Karen Lynn (Nov. 7) With love, Kara Lynn.

A belated birthday wish to my special aunt and friend Karen Lynn on November 7th. I wish you all the best in the years to come. Love always, your niece/ friend, Jo-Anne.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Elaine Moses on November 22, 1996. Also congratulations on the birth of your baby girl Adrianna on October 30, 11996. May your child bring you a lot of joy and happiness. Love always, mom, dad, Melinda, Lott and Una (Wask)

I would like to wish my honey FD a happy belated birthday. I know it's late but I still love you. I love you!! From your honey. Whap.

Birthday greetings going out to Katrina Gilpin in Eastmain. You're nine years old, can you imagine how small you were when you were born. We were scared to hold you but you have grown into a lovely young lady. You're a special to us and don't you ever forget. From grandma Emily and grandpa Abraham in Chisasibi.

To a young lad who loves to eat bannock. He will be celebrating his birthday on No-

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vember 25. If you cannot guess who it is. It's you (Willie) William Benjamin from Montreal. I hope your birthday is a good one. By the way how is your new bunny. I was so sorry to hear about "Shivers" From your friends in Chisasibi who love making bannock for you. Guess.

November 19th. Happy birthday to a boy by the name of Lance P. Cooper in OJ. Have a nice birthday and don't party too much (Just Joking)...Enjoy your day. From the Martin Boys, Nelson and Nathan in Waswanipi.

Happy belated birthday to Katelyn Georgekish who turned eight years old on October 5, 1996. Hope you had a wonderful birthday. With love, mom, dad, Kathleen, Tracy, Laurie Ann, Hannah and Cherilyn (Boodoo)

Happy belated birthday to Delmer John who celebrated his birthday on October 21, 1996. Be a good boy. With love always, Gookoom Mary, Joomshoom Bobby and the girls. (Wemindji)

Happy birthday to a wonderful father Bobby E, Georgekish who will be turning 55 on November 7, 1996.. Hope you dance at the wedding. With love always and forever, your wife Mary and your children, Katelyn, Tracy, Laurie-Ann, Hannah, Paul, Valerie, Kathleen and Gary (Wemindji) xoxoxoxoxo.

Seems like yesterday you entered this world but that's a year ago

We'll always treasure your special day, our baby boy "Karl Sharone you're wished an exciting first birthday on December 10, 1996. With much love, Mommy and Daddy. xoxoxoxo

---

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to a special mother in Nellie Coonishish Nemaska. Mom, words can't describe how thankful I am for your love, support and understanding. I thank the Lord for blessing me with a wonderful mother. God bless you. With love, your daughter Cindy. xoxo.

Birthday wishes going out to my wonderful, funny, caring and loving mother Sandra House (Mtl) on November 21. You still look young but you're getting older everyday. I miss the good times we had last summer. Hope to see you this year before the year ends, 96. Have fun on your birthday. happy 4? birthday (Ha Ha) Just joking. Happy 3? birthday. P.S. Have fun. I love you and miss you a lot. Love always, your daughter Andrea Jasmine Mamianskum. xoxoxox

---

Natasha Amber Sunshine. Happy 1st birthday on October 29!! No matter how far or near we may be, you will always remain in our hearts in thought and in prayers. Sending all our love to your little sweet heart and may God continue to keep you in good health and growth. Love, your Shecapio family. xoxoxoxoxo.

We would like to wish a happy 17th birthday to a very special friends of ours Tanya Cooper. She was celebrating her birthday in the bush on October 15. And even though we have some tough times, we'll always be your friend. From friends always, Carly Kitchen, Caroline Blacksmith, Sarah Blacksmith, Stacey Kitchen and Joni Blacksmith.

I'd like to wish a very happy birthday on the 26th of October to my dear grandpa Joshua Lameboy Sr. I'll be thinking of you on your special day even though you'll be miles away from me. Also I wish you good luck on your hunting. I miss you. From your grandson who loves you dearly, Danny Boy. xoxoxoxoxo.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my grandpa Joshua Lameboy Sr. His birthday was on October 26th, 1996. Love, always, your granddaughter, Jennifer Labbe

---

I would like to wish my dad Joshua Lameboy a very happy birthday and most of all a healthy life. You'll be remembered on this special day, October 26th. Thanks for being such a loving father and grandfather to my children. Thanks for being there for us throughout the good and bad times. Also I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for teaching the way of life in the bush to my sons. I know it's something they'll always treasure. I'll always be grateful to have such a wonderful dad. May God bless and keep you always. Lovingly, your daughter Alice.

Wishing my family a happy belated birthday for October. To my true love Charlie on October 8. My brother in law, Darelle Taylor on October 9. My sister and her baby girl, Nancy and Valerie Icebound on October 12, my baby boy Bibou on October 16.. My loving dad and my favorite nephew Daniel and Daniel on October 23, my other brother in law, Jimmy Cooper on October 29. Love you and gonna miss you all. Pray for me. With love, Linda and children.

I would like to wish my aunt Melanie a happy belated birthday on Sept. 25. She's in Val d'Or. Also I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my daddy Ben and to my aunt Marie Claude on October 12, my aunt Dorothy on October 21, my grandfather George on October 19, my cousins Renee on October 19, Abel on October 18 and to my other grandfather Phillip on October 30. I'm new at wishing people happy birthday, so if I forget anyone please forgive me. I can't wait to celebrate with all of you next year. I love everyone of you very much. P.S. Grandpa George, I can't wait to see you. Happy birthday to everyone. Alycia Ashton Nibish.

Happy birthday to a special sister and aunt Karen K. of Wemindji on November 6. We hope you'll have lots of fun. We love U. From sister Stephanie and nephew Thomas K. (wemindji) xoxoxox.

To my friends Nancy Loon and Mary Shecapio. Happy birthday to Mary on October 23. Happy birthday to Nancy on October 27. Friends are friends 4-ever. When I needed someone to talk to, one of you were there, I am glad to have such good friends. Through good and bad times, both of you will always be my friends. Friend always, Linda the Bosum.

We want to wish a happy belated birthday to Allen Michael on October 15 in Chisasibi. And to baby Jane on October 18 in North Bay and to Preston on October 13 and to Byran on October 24 in Whap. Happy birthday and many more to come.. Bay Jane, Preston and Byran. We miss you a lot. Hope to see you soon. With all our love, Margaret Rose, Andrew Ralph and Jesse James. Chisasibi. xoxoxoxo.

Birthday wishes going out to Jason Melvin Snowboy on November 8 and to Amelia Snowboy on November 6, 96. Happy birthday and many more years to come. We'll always love you both. And also happy birthday to my sister Cyndi Chakapash on November 11, 1996. I'll always love you and I'll always be there for you sis. Love always, Margaret Rose, Andrew, Ralph and Jesse James (JJ) Chisasibi. xoxoxoxo...

We would like to wish our godmother, auntie Cyndi Chakapash a happy birthday and many, many, many, many more to come on November 11, 96. Take a day off on your birthday and have a blast. And we would also like to thank you both, both you and Patrick for taking us to church when we couldn't take care of ourselves to be baptized. Thanks for everything. We'll always love you both. Love always, your godchildren, Ralph and JJ (Jesse James) Chisasibi. xoxoxoxo.

Hey! there aunty shorty. Happy thirty something birthday and many more to come. You're getting old and still single. But look at it this way, you're closer to you old age pension eh! P.S. remember this, you're only pretty when you have money. Well, I guess you'll be much prettier when you get to reach you old age pension. Ha! ha! Ha!. Once again happy birthday auntie Charlotte. Love always, your favorite nephew, ha! Dakota Jules Gunner.

A birthday wish going out to my sister Alice Wapachee on November 30, 1996. May your day be as special as you are. Thank you for your understanding or your willingness to listen and to lend a helping hand. And I want to let you know I'm so glad that you're my sister and I'll always love you. Happy birthday sis! Love, Theresa Wapachee.

Happy 6th birthday to Trevor Lindy Moar on November 21,

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1996. We love you very much. From Mom,(Shirley) and dad (Bert).

We would like to wish a happy fourth birthday to our grand daughter Edith (Bunker) Atchynia on November 12, 1996. Love always, Gimshoom, Isaac and Go-Go-La-La Masty. xox xox!

Многая літа, мама! And happy 29th anniversary to mom and dad, you crazy kids. (Papa: keep her away from the wine spritzer.)

102-WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Keith and Stella Bearskin. Their wedding was on November 5, 96. You had a beautiful wedding. We wish you both the best. Take care of your daughter Eliza faith and son Keith Jr. Also happy birthday to both of you on your wedding day. Family and friends.

I would like to congratulate my godparents on their upcoming wedding, Kathleen and Danny Vaillancourt on June 21st. I wish you all the best in the years to come. With love, your godson, Thomas Kakabat (Wem.)

Congratulations to Laura Ekomiak and Stanley George on their wedding day J7uly 19, 1996 in Whapmagoostui. Wishing you both a lonf and happy life together. Karen and family

We would like to congratulate Paul Georgekish and Charlene Chiskamish on their upcoming wedding on November 7, 1996. May you both have love, joy and happiness throughout the years to come. Love always, mom, dad, Katelynn, Tracy, Kathleen, Laurie-Ann, Hannah and Cherilyn (Boodoo) Wemindji.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to say happy anniversary to our uncles and their wives and a special one to our parents, we love you. Happy 9th to Thomas and Lydia on September 4. Happy 7th to Raymond and Emily Blackned on October 6. Happy anniversary to Bobby and Martha Blackned on October 9. And to our parents Ricky and Margaret, happy 14th on September 30. With all our love, Amy, Willy, Wally and Dwight (Wask).

Happy 25th anniversary to my aunt and uncle Jean and Robbie Masty on August 30, 1996. May you have another 25 years to spend together. I love you both. Karen M. in Hull.

Two special people in our lives had their 26th anniversary (June 9 Chis.) Irene and Isaac Matches, you both are the greatest and most wonderful parents anyone could ask for. And we would also like to say we love you and not a day goes by that we don't think of you. By the way I hope you will love you gift and wear them all the time. Love always, Edith and Gordon. xoxoxoxo. P.S. Happy Father's Day to you dads (Isaac) June 16.

104-GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to our son Jonathan Ottereyes who's graduating from high school on June 20, 1996. Wishing you the best of luck in your college years. We're very proud of you. Love and prayers from mom Caroline and dad Harry O.

105-OBITUARIES

In loving memory of Helen Petawabano. Helen was a loving and caring person. She never did or said anything to hurt anyone. She always had a smile when you would visit her. She was happy even though she wasn't able to go or do the things she like to do. She enjoyed being in the bush with her family. Helen will be sadly missed by her husband, children, grand-children and great grandchildren. She was born on October 7, 1913 and passed away on October 9, 1995 (Thanksgiving Day) at Chibougamou Hospital surrounded by her family and friends. She was 82 years old. She had eight children and 9 step-children, 24 grandchildren, and 41 step grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and 42 step great grandchildren. This is dedicated to our mom and grandmother Helen Petawabano. You will always be remembered and will remain in our hearts forever. With love, Eva, Stephanie and Frances.

LE PICK

Ho! Ho! Ho! This is Santa sending a message to all the kids who read the Nation Classifieds. Send your letters to me care of the Nation. And I, Santa Claus will type them in. Ho! Ho! Ho!

200-FOR SALE

Siberian Huskies for sale. Black and white with blue eyes. Contact David Bosum Sr., Nuuchimi Wiinuu, Ouje-Bougoumou Cultural Tours, 74 Opataca St., Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec, G0W 3C0 or call: 418-745-3500, Res. 418-745-3629.

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300-PERSONALS

To my secret pal and a special person Dorothy Gull. I always pray for you. Don't forget that Jesus is always there for us when we need him. From your secret pal in Waswanipi.

Thank you to Albert Courte of Diamond Taxi and George and

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Charlotte Shecapio of Mistissini for delivering my computer. I am very grateful and appreciate you kindness. Deantha Edmunds.

I just want to say hi! to my friends Danny and Bernice Kitchen in Waskaganish. So, how are you guys Call me sometime... From Margaret. (Chis)

To the one and only Islander for me in Mistissini. I still think you are amazing. Keep working hard and let's enjoy a wonderful Christmas together. Luvs you Ducky. From your little amputee.

The world is a vampire...you stupid girl. I want to rock n roll all night. If you complain you'll meet an army of me. After all, that's what friends are for. See you on Friday the 13th. Peel? Why not? Our own marketing campaign. Love, your more human than human buddy, Dievantha.

To the 160 ladies who attended the 1996 QNWM Retreat. "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" Romans 15:5, 6. See you next year.

Helen Petawabano, a great big thank you for doing such a great job as registrar fro the Quebec Native Women's Ministries Retreat held on September 6-8, 1996 in Val d'Or. "Many women do noble things but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:29. God bless you today. SM

Linda Coonishish. May all our problem be letters and parcels as you coordinate the secret sister program of Quebec Native Women's Ministries this year. "Pleasant words are honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" Proverbs 16:24. Congratulations and best wishes.

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Dorothy Gull (Was) Congratulations on your position as President of Women's Ministries in Waswanipi. "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" Philipianns 2:13. Have a god term in office.

I would like to say hello to my friends, Cynthia in Hull, Madeline in North Bay, to Nancy in Montreal. I hope you girls accomplish your goals and get a bite out of life. Nancy, like you used to say. "Vouloir, c'est pouvoir" or is it "Pouvoir, c'est vouloir"?? Anyways you know what I'm talking about. Friend always, Pauline.

We would like to say hello to our drinking buddies in Val d'Or: JW, RK, FK, DS, SS from Waskaganish. CS, DV from Wemindji. Hope to see you again someday. From the two poor girls (Hope you remember us)

If you have read the recent stories on domestic violence in the Nation and you have something to say, please call us, or send in your ideas, personal stories, testimonials, advice, or inspirations to the Nation at 5413 Hutchison, Montreal, Quebec, H2V 4B4, Phone, 514-272-3077 or fax: 514-278-9914. Write to, or ask for Marilyn Bearskin Herodier. Whether you are a man, woman, child or teenager. We look forward to hearing from you.

I know I'm always there waiting for you to come back. I just can't let go of you and I have always loved and cared for someone like you but I still ask myself what did I do wrong for you to walk away from me. The whole point is that my love for you will never fade. Remember November 3, 95? It's the day I never thought would end. I miss you laughter and everything about you. From me you know who.

400-EVENTS

To all women: Want to be 1.) Physically Attractive. 2.)Emotionally Stable. 3.)Financially Intelligent. 4.) Intellectually Awake. 5.) Spiritually Dynamic. Call your local Pentecostal pastor and ask about Women's Ministries!

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Hear ye! Hear ye! Still looking for that stocking stuffer? The new *Nation* calendar should be available as you're reading this. It is the Mother of all calendars.

Honey, please don't phone me at the office when I am in the middle of something. It doesn't look good. Thank you and Merry Christmas..

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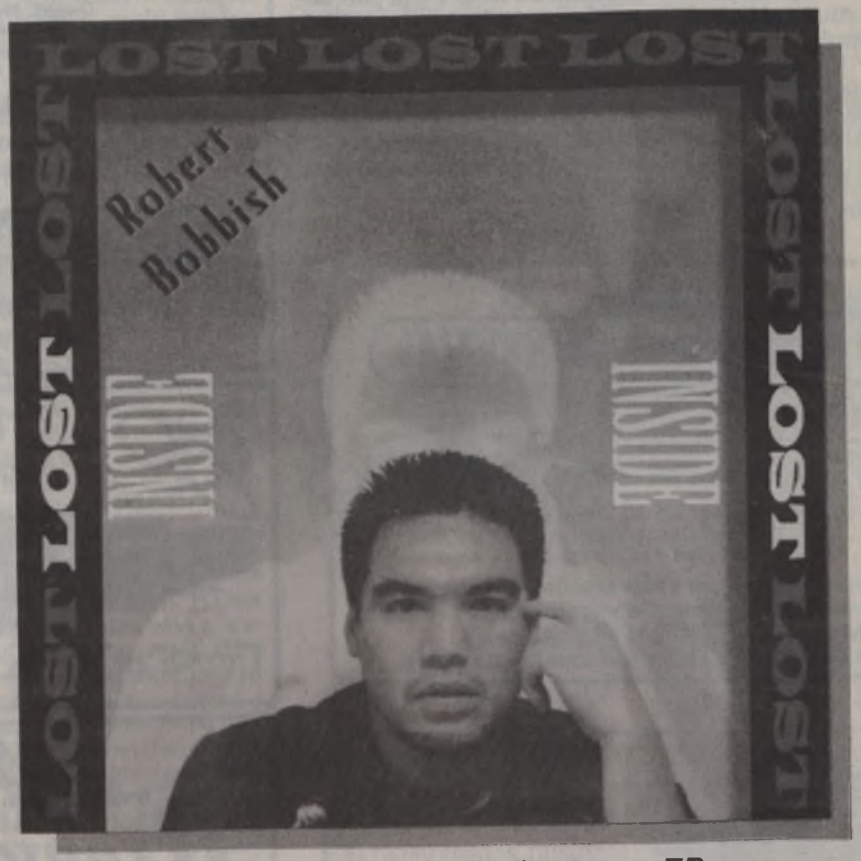

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